

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIC DEFENCE COLLEGE



DECEMBER 2018 | Issue 28

Commandant's Overview

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Time is passing impassively, regardless of the events in our lives. As we are approaching the end of the year, we usually look back at what we have done during the past year, we look at both - the success and achievements, as well as we analyse the errors we have made in order to be better in the next year. We also try to look into the future and make an effort to set goals for the New Year with the hope that the next year will be better than the previous one.

The year 2018 has been important and very rich for all of us. It was a Centennial year for Baltic states and several other countries. The College has entered into its 20th year and we will continue highlighting it during 2019. As the College was formally inaugurated on the 25th February 1999, there will be quite a few academic and social events around this day. Needless to mention that the most important events are planned in conjunction with the joint graduation of the three courses in June 2019.

The time we live in is intense, demanding and difficult enough. Many processes and events take place simultaneously, requiring well balanced and well developed solutions and sound decisions in order to move ahead. Therefore, we must be knowledgeable and creative to overcome these challenges, we have to be prepared and educated to deal with unexpected and we have to be equipped and ready to act swiftly and decisively.

No change, the College must provide high-quality education to our customers, to our allies, to our partners, to our officers and civilian personnel, at first. At the same time, we must be credible and highly visible contributors to the security and defence policy in the Baltic Sea region, as well as we must be adaptive and flexible professional educational institution being able to address the real

world issues timely.

No doubts, everyone in the College - being a member of the faculty or support staff, being a visiting lecturer or student - you all are selflessly contributing to these efforts. You all are well prepared civilian and military experts and extremely good professionals and specialists, who are able to offer solutions to required developments. We, all of us together, are an exceptionally good team being able to work effectively addressing all necessary issues and caring for results and outputs of our organization and its reputation. I am proud of you, I believe in you and I am very honoured to lead the Baltic Defence College. Thank you very much, indeed!

Let us believe in the Christmas light and miracles, let us believe in ourselves and each other! Let the next year bring bright thoughts and great opportunities to all of us! Our strength is in the unity and in cohesion of our team.

I wish a sincere, peaceful and bright Christmas and a happy and successful New Year 2019 for all of you and your loved ones!



Andis Dilāns

Major General Andis Dilāns
Commandant of
Baltic Defence College

Chief of Staff Corner

By Col Jean Trudel, Deputy Commandant and Chief of Staff

The end of year is always a good time to look back, reflecting on achievements and to look forward, to see what we still need to accomplish. In a joint, multinational and inter-governmental institution such as ours, no one can ever see the entirety of our work. That's a pity, because in fact, what we are able to do in support of our Framework Nations is quite remarkable.

Reflecting on a few notable moments, we delivered 82 newly qualified officers and civil servants to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, their allies and partners. Just looking at JCGSC, we deployed well over 1,500 person/days on the road in support of education. We hosted 44 high-level visits and 15 notable academic events. We participated or hosted 12 ceremonial or community activities. We made three cooperation agreements with other institutions. Our new flag was approved, we launched our 20th Anniversary logo and plan. And we rolled out the Document Handling System. Behind these statistics are 65 persons who work hard to make them happen. And we did all that with a number of vacant positions.

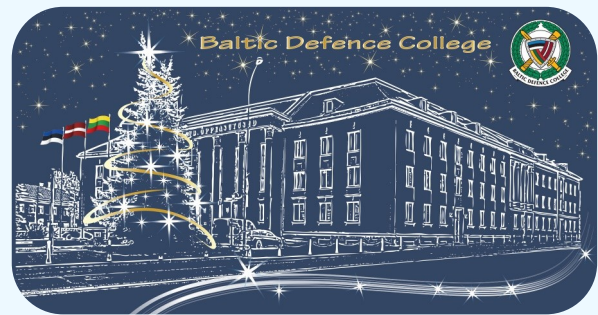
Within your department and teams, you know what you have achieved this year. You know the difference you have made to our students. Those differences have been enormous and far too many to go beyond the figures above. But what I want to say with sincerity is thank you to each and everyone of you. Of all the visits we have, without exception, the visitors are impressed by everyone's attitude and dedication to the work we do. Your work is constantly centred on students. We are truly punching above our weight.

Above all, we must get it right for our students. On the occasion we don't get it right, we learn from it and put it right. We're on a never-ending journey. Having students amongst our midst provides us with immediate feedback on how we're doing, almost on a daily basis. This is the fuel that animates us and this gratification can hardly be replicated anywhere else than in an education institution.

Looking ahead at next year, I see two major projects: First, we will commemorate the College's 20th Anniversary with pride and

purpose. Then, we will achieve NATO Accreditation through certifying the Energy Security Course. I personally will continue personnel policies reform started in 2018.

At this time of the year, it's about family, it's about being together with our loved ones, and I know how much they support you all. It's important for me as Chief of Staff to be able to tell you and your family a big thank you. Whatever you do over the holiday season, stay safe. I am looking forward to next year.



Senior Leaders' Course 2018

By Col Albertas Dapkus, Course Director SLC/HCSC

The fourth Senior Leaders' Course (SLC) was organised by the Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL) from 28 November – 05 December 2018 in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. It was already second time the course was conducted outside of Tartu, the hometown of BALTDEFCOL. Significant Host Nation Support from Lithuania's Ministry of National Defence enabled successful execution of SLC 2018.

This year, Senior Leaders' Course was dedicated to a pressing and timely question: are we going back to the nuclear age? The aim of the SLC 2018 was to address the spectrum of strategic reasoning, realities of conflict and regional issues related to nuclear weapons and policy. The SLC 2018 participants had a unique possibility to discuss new and enduring strategic nuclear dilemmas with subject experts from the strategic decision-making level, academia and military. The College proposed a distinguished audience of Senior Leaders, the intellectual opportunities and environment to continue to broaden their strategic situational intelligence in order to make the best possible decisions. Participants evaluated the course as very interesting and thanked BALTDEFCOL for daring to breach the subject and talk about it.

In the SLC 2018, we had 19 participants from 12 different countries. Along with Senior Leaders' we had four Command Senior Enlisted Leaders (CSEL) in the class, who were

observing this course, as part of their preparation in conducting the first CSEL Course which will be organized by BALTDEFCOL in autumn next year.

At the end of last session, Commandant of the Baltic Defence College Major General Andis Dilāns recognised Guest Speaker General (ret) Knud Bartels and Visiting Senior Mentor General (ret) Hans-Lothar Domröse as Honorary Fellows of the Baltic Defence College. Both generals have significantly contributed to the development of education of the Baltic Defence College and to the enhancement of the security of the Baltic region as well as supported SLCs for several years.

The participants of SLC 2018 had several engagements outside of the classroom as well. H.E. Angelika Viets, the Ambassador of Germany, kindly invited all participants, Guest Speakers and Faculty to the reception at her residency and addressed the audience with a Keynote Speech on Germany's policy towards regional and global security.

In addition, SLC 2018 participants had an opportunity to familiarise themselves with history and culture of Lithuania while visiting Atomic Bunker and Vytautas the Great War Museum in Kaunas during a cultural trip.

Next Senior Leaders' Course is expected to be conducted in Tallinn, capital of Estonia, in the end of November 2019.





Joint Command and General Staff Course 2018/2019

By Col Ilmar Tamm, Course Director JCGSC

The Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) is approaching the end of the first semester and there is only an oral exam to pass before the Christmas break. It is about time to slow down for a while in order to focus attention on reconnecting with families and relatives.

I like the notion of learning being like a trip on a curvy and hilly road, where the destination is not limited to a single and final stop, because the journey goes on for a lifetime. This academic year, the JCGSC journey started in the middle of sunny August with 63 students from 13 different nations. According to the college records, JCGSC 2018-2019 is the second largest course since the launch of the joint level education to senior staff officers in the Baltic Defence College. It has been a new and exciting start for me as well, as I assumed the role of the Course Director a few weeks before start of the course. I must admit that I have learned along with the students day by day to ensure synergy and positive atmosphere within the course to create and sustain conditions for the good quality of education. Quick retrospective to the first semester is full of many opportunities and challenges that have in a way or another increased your knowledge and skills, and even if sometimes lectures seemed too lengthy or there seemed to be too many of them, I believe you all were capable to grasp the most important essence by applying critical thinking. I am very pleased with the open and honest communication and information exchange between me and the course that has allowed me to steer the tempo and assure the quality of education, needless to say openness is one of the core principles of the College's Code of Conduct. Hereby, I would like to specially thank the Class Leader Major Bjarne Barslund's and the Class Academic Representative Jevgēnijs Rjaščenko's commitments to their student tasks proving to the course members and faculty you

are indeed the representatives of the whole class. Take the oral exam matters' sensitive discussions and respectively implemented changes as evident example of their excellent contribution on behalf of the class for a better resolution. Well done!

Obviously, the JCGSC's education road paved with lot of readings, seminars and lectures, exercise scenario guidance and instructions, as well as individual counselling for the course has been set up and run only thanks to the dedicated work and enthusiasm of our staff. My special appreciation goes to the SGO crew for your daily assistance to me and also to the students.

The journey will continue in the second semester with auspicious and honourable events to celebrate the College 20th anniversary. Likewise, we will tackle with educational and intellectual challenges such as finalising the Research Paper, Conference on Russia, practising the COPD skills at exercise Joint Resolve 2019 in Poland and finally exploring the Sweden's and Finland's military culture and innovation prior the end of the course. Starting from the second semester, the students of the JCGSC will be joined by eleven civil servants for almost four months. I am certain they will bring different views and experience into the small group discussions that enhances and enriches the staff officer's knowledge, not to undermine the importance of the personal contacts and connections for the rest of your career. Let civil servants feel warmly welcomed right from the day one and please help them to merge into the course routines and activities in anticipation of you all meeting again at the joint graduation ceremony on 20th June 2019. Until then, I wish you and your beloved ones peaceful Merry Christmas and looking forward to proceed with the journey of JCGSC in New Year.



Distinguished Visitors and Visits During the First Part of the Academic Year

JULY

13 JUL
US cadets of Citadel
programme



29 AUG

Brigadier General Zenon
Brzuszek, Commander of
LITPOLUKRBRIG



10 SEPT
Defence Attachés accredited to
Estonia



AUGUST

13 SEPT

Brigadier General (ret) Michael
H. Clemmesen, 1st Commandant
of BALTDEFCOL



SEPTEMBER



14 SEPT
General Sir James
Everard, DSACEUR

14 SEPT
Brigadier General Ryszard
Parafianowicz, Rector-
Commandant of the Polish
War Studies University



19 SEPT
H.E. Ms Tea
Akhvlediani,
Ambassador of Georgia
to Estonia and Colonel
Nikoloz Janjgava, First
Deputy Chief of
General Staff of
Georgia



17 SEPT
Alumni of French Army
Officers School of Saint-Cry



4 OCT
Colonel Eric
Flesch, Commander of USSATMO

OCTOBER



Distinguished Visitors and Visits During the First Part of the Academic Year



OCTOBER

15 OCT

Jaak Tarien, Director of
NATO CCD COE

NOVEMBER

6 NOV

Ambassador Cliff
Bond, US Charge
d'Affaires



8 NOV

Lieutenant
General
Sławomir
Wojciechowski,
Commander of
MNC NE



14 NOV

Professor Toomas Asser, Rector
of the University of Tartu



23 NOV

Lieutenant General
Christine Whitecross,
Commandant of NATO
Defense College



23 NOV

Delegation from Hybrid
CoE



21 NOV

Air Marshal Sir
Christopher Harper



DECEMBER

30 NOV

Brigadier General Kevin
Wulfhorst, Army Assistant Deputy
Chief of Staff for Intelligence



11 DEC

Major General
Oliver Kohl,
Commandant of
Führungsakademie
der Bundeswehr

Academic Events

In the Academic Year 2018-2019, the College continued to further develop its position as a centre of excellence in professional military education and research.

During this semester, BALTDEFCOL hosted several roundtables and seminars. In addition, BALTDEFCOL Faculty members attended various external workshops and conferences.

BALTDEFCOL's 9th Annual Conference on Baltic Military History took place on 13th and 14th of September.



The theme of this year's Conference was "1918-2018 Hundred years of armed forces development". It addressed the development and

fate of the armed forces of a number of Eastern European and Caucasian countries in 100 years after gaining independence trying to grasp the lessons learned through reflection on the processes within and related to the armed forces. Special attention was given to the role of military education in the developmental process of the armed forces. The keynote speakers of the Conference were Brigadier General (ret) Michael H. Clemmesen, first Commandant of the Baltic Defence College and General Sir James R. Everard, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR).

On 19th of September, Brigadier General Gintautas Zenkevičius talked about the NATO Brussels Summit and its implications to the Baltic states to the students of JCGSC 2018-2019 and BALTDEFCOL faculty members.

In the beginning of October, BALTDEFCOL hosted the Nordic-Baltic Conference of Commandants 2018 in Narva, Estonia where current developments within the military education were presented and discussed by the leaders of professional military education institutions in the region.



The second Educational Requirements Seminar was organised by the College on 12th of November. The purpose of the seminar was to review educational requirements and to discuss expectations of the Baltic nations for different BALTDEFCOL courses.

On 20th of November, Air Marshal Harper participated in the BALTDEFCOL's Air Defence Seminar as the keynote speaker. The seminar was organised as part of the JCGSC curriculum. Mr Meelis Oidsalu, Mr Uģis Noritis, Mr Edgars Slišāns and Lieutenant Colonel Rolandas Greibus participated as the panellists.

BALTDEFCOL also continued to enhance cooperation with its existing partners. On 23th of November, Central & East European, Russian & Eurasian Studies (CEERES) students of Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies of the University of Tartu visited BALTDEFCOL to get a better overview of the College, its history, tasks, academic activities and ongoing developments. The students were also briefed on possible internship opportunities and future employment possibilities at the College.



On 6th of December, a Tabletop Exercise 'Baltics: Left of Bang' was conducted at the Baltic Defence College. The aim of the exercise was to discuss anticipated activities among the U.S., EU, NATO, the Baltic and Nordic states and others.

The most important external events attended by BALTDEFCOL Management and Faculty include the Annual Baltic Conference on Defence (ABCD) 2018 titled "NATO at 70: no time to rest", the Riga Conference 2018, the Conference of the International Society of Military Sciences (ISMS) 2018 "Military Sciences and Future Security Challenges", the ICDS Seminar, the Warsaw Security Forum 2018 and the Annual Meeting 2018 of Central European Forum on Military Education (CEFME).

Cooperation

During the 1st half of the Academic Year 2018-2019, BALTDEFCOL signed three new cooperation agreements:

On 2nd of August, Major General Andis Dilāns, Commandant of the Baltic Defence College and Lieutenant General Manfred Hofmann, Commander Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE), signed an Agreement of Cooperation between BALTDEFCOL and MNC NE.

On 13th of September, Major General Andis Dilāns, Commandant of the Baltic Defence College and Brigadier General Ryszard Parafianowicz, Rector-Commandant of the Polish War Studies University signed a Letter of Intent on Cooperation between the two institutions.

On 23rd of November, Major General Andis Dilāns, Commandant of the Baltic Defence College and Mr. Matti Saarelainen, Director of the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats signed a Letter of Intent on Cooperation.



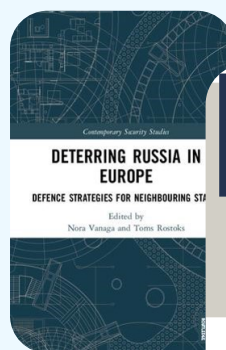
Research



In September 2018, BALTDEFCOL launched a new academic blog on Baltic Security issues. The initiative for the blog came from the Department of Political and Strategic Studies. Regular blog posts are submitted by students and Faculty members. The objective of the blog is to comment with professional insight on current world, regional, and national events linked to security questions.

The blog is available at:
<https://baltdefcolblog.wordpress.com/>.

BALTDEFCOL's faculty has also been active in writing different publications covering military, strategic, security-related, international and historical issues.



Staff Ride Kurland

By Lt. Cdr. David Zivnуска, student of JCGSC 2018-2019

From 2nd to 4th of November, faculty and students of the BALTDEFCOL's Joint Command and General Staff Course conducted a Staff Ride to Liepāja, Latvia for in-depth studies of the WWII operations on the Kurland peninsula in 1944 and 1945.

The Staff Ride process started with several preparation sessions over two months, where students researched and presented on various aspects of the terrain; the capabilities of the land, maritime and air forces; and other historical contexts that had bearing on the battles. On the Staff Ride itself, the participants experienced first hand the impacts of the dynamic and challenging terrain Soviet forces faced through battlefield tours. Mr. Valdis Kuzmins, a researcher at the Latvian National Defence Academy's Centre for Security and Strategic Research, escorted the group throughout the trip, providing in-depth analysis and background on the events, helping the participants better understand the complexities that each side faced throughout the operation. The Latvian Navy generously provided a patrol boat in order to give a overview of the maritime picture and a feel for the sea conditions typical of the Baltic Sea.

Following these tours, the faculty and students discussed their reflections and compared those to their earlier research, trying to better understand why commanders made the decisions that they did and to learn important lessons about the benefits that integrated joint operations can bring to future battles.

The group also visited the local military prison and Holocaust memorial to gain a better appreciation of additional historical contexts that shaped the events and societies at the time.



The Stories Behind the Syndicate Badges/Shields

By students of JCGSC and Ms Liis Vahe, Information Manager

Syndicate Laidoner chose the Rotary wheel shaped logo because General Johan Laidoner after whom the syndicate is named after was a Member of the Rotary—a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. Placed on the wheel are keywords characterising Gen Laidoner as well as the syndicate members - knowledge, leadership, diplomacy, freedom, international, truth. The sword depicted on the shield is a symbol of knighthood and chivalry. The flags on the shield represent the nations of the members of the syndicate - USA, Lithuania, Moldova, Georgia, Estonia, Latvia. 'JCGSC 2018-2019' is written above the shield and name of the syndicate 'Laidoner' below the shield.



Syndicate Žukauskas' shield has a map of the Baltic states and neighbouring countries as its background. On top of the map, there is the Cross of Vytis - the very first military award in Lithuania created in 1919

that was also awarded to General Žukauskas - the man the syndicate is named after. Below the Cross, there is one element of the JCGSC emblem - three interlaced flags of the Baltic states impaled on a triangular shield. 'JCGSC 2018/2019' is written below the shield. The flags on the rim of the shield indicate the nations represented by the syndicate members - Lithuania, Ukraine, USA, Slovakia, Latvia and Estonia. Name of the syndicate 'Žukauskas' and motto 'Be a Voice not an Echo!' are also written on the rim.



The wolf on the syndicate Gediminas' shield represents the legend behind King Gediminas, an Iron Wolf and how the city of Vilnius came into being. The flags represent the countries of the syndicate members - Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, USA, Estonia and Germany. The initials are the first names of everyone in the syndicate. The shield also has BALTDEFCOL 20th Anniversary logo on it. Motto of the syndicate 'Ex Sapientia Victoria—From wisdom, victory' is written on the rim.

The shield of the syndicate Põdder consists of the national flags of the syndicate members - Denmark, Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia placed in the shape of a circle. Inside the circle there is a triangular shield with the flags of the Baltic states and a logo of the Estonian Defence League as Gen Põdder was one of the main founders of underground Defence League. The flags inside the circle represent the nations of the syndicate's SGOs - Germany and USA. Name of the syndicate 'Põdder' is written above the shield and motto of the syndicate 'E Pluribus Unum - Out of many, one' as well as the years the course is conducted in '2018 2019' are written below the shield.



Syndicate Rozenšteins' shield is hexagon-shaped. The hexagon symbolises the start of the course when people don't know each other yet and the corners are still uncut. With time, the hexagon should turn into a smoothly moving wheel. In the middle of the shield there is a 20th Anniversary logo of the BALTDEFCOL as the course is conducted in a year the College celebrates its 20th Anniversary. 'JCGSC' is written above the logo and '2018-2019' below it. Around the logo is a



black circle depicting the motto of the syndicate 'Aut Viam Inveniam Aut Faciam - I'll either find a way or make one. The shield also depicts the flags of the countries represented at the syndicate—Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Canada, Latvia and Ukraine.



Syndicate Radziņš chose the emblem of the Joint Command and General Staff Course as their shield's basic element. However, the three interlaced flags of the Baltic States impaled on a triangular shield are replaced with the Coat of Arms of Valka parish where General Radziņš was educated. The 7 flags on the shield indicate from which countries the syndicate members are from - Latvia, Georgia, USA, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Lithuania. The motto of the syndicate 'Scientia Est Potentia—Knowledge is power', syndicate name 'Radziņš' and course abbreviation 'JCGSC 18/19' are depicted on the rim of the shield.

Changes in Staff

Each new academic year brings changes to the composition of BALTDEFCOL Staff and Faculty. AY 2018-2019 is no different.

This semester, BALTDEFCOL welcomed 15 new members to its family. COL Ilmar Tamm became the new Course Director of Joint Command and General Staff Course. The biggest addition went to the Department of Military Studies with 7 new members - CDR Tarmo Sepp, COL Jacek Lewandowski, LTC Joakim Paasikivi, LTC Jevgenijs Kazenko, LTC Aaron M. Cornett, LTC Richard A. Towner and LTC (ret) Albertas Kondrotas. Department of Political and Strategic Studies got 3 new members - Mr Art Johanson, Mr Mark Voyger and Dr Lukáš Dyčka. 3 new members joined the Department of Support - Mr Raul Koni, Mr Taavo Prans and Ms Kersti Össo.



We also said good-bye to LTC (ret.) Ugis Romanovs, MSGTRisto Kanketer, Ms Pilleriin Lillemets and LTC Toomas Boltowsky.

Medals and Awards

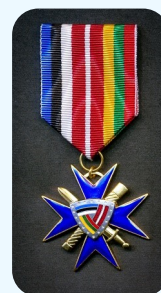
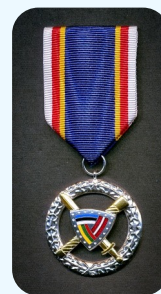
It has become a tradition at the College to recognise Staff and Faculty members for their dedication and outstanding efforts.

The Baltic Defence College Medal of Merit Silver was awarded to MSGT Risto Kanketer on 25th of September.

On 2nd of August, Major General Andis Dilāns, Commandant of the Baltic Defence College awarded the Baltic Defence College Medal of Merit Silver and Certificate of Appreciation to H.E. Ms Tea Akhvlediani, Ambassador of Georgia to Estonia for her excellent and unfailing long service and dedication to the Baltic Defence College and advancing its mission through exceptional and dedicated support of College educational activities.

The Baltic Defence College Service Cross was awarded to Ms Pilleriin Lillemets, Col Jean Trudel, Col Albertas Dapkus, Col Yrjö Lehtonen, Col Tarmo Ränisoo, LtCol Andres Helm-Rosin, Maj Liene Rozenberga, Capt (N) (ret.) Juris Roze and Ms Jaana Reinek.

During the farewell remarks of the Senior Leaders' Course 2018, Gen (ret.) Knud Bartels and Gen (ret.) Hans-Lothar Domröse were recognised as Honorary Fellows of the Baltic Defence College. Both generals have significantly contributed to the development of education of the Baltic Defence College for several years.



Boat Ride on River Emajõgi

LtCol Aaron M. Cornett, Joint Planning and Execution

One of the best ways to get to know one another and build trust and confidence going forward is to come together in a social setting outside of the office. The beautiful Emajõgi River served as the backdrop for the first such gathering for the staff and faculty of the Baltic Defense College during academic year 2018-2019.

On 31 July 2018, members of the BALTDEFCOL staff and faculty boarded the riverboat Pegasus for a short journey up and down the Emajõgi River. Cold beverages were served along with light snacks as the Pegasus cruised north from the Dorpat Hotel. The riverboat cruised for approximately thirty minutes through the city of Tartu and past beautiful beaches and houses. Once the riverboat reached its turn-around point and began to make its way back south, the real fun began.

During the cruise back south, BALTDEFCOL Historian Mr Art Johanson provided a detailed lecture on the history of Estonia and the city of Tartu. For many of the new staff and faculty members, the information was their first real history lesson on Estonia and Tartu. Art was even able to provide some very interesting information to native Estonians aboard the cruise. Despite his best efforts, it was hard to keep everyone's attention as the riverboat cruised by beautiful vistas in the city of Tartu and east towards Lake Peipus.

There was a constant chatter aboard the Pegasus throughout the cruise. New and old staff and faculty shared stories of past experiences, summer vacations, families, and other interests as they enjoyed the cold beverages and snacks. It was evident early on that the staff and faculty got along well, and even the record hot temperatures could not keep people from becoming fast friends.

Near the end of the cruise at the second turn-around point, Art took to the microphone once again. This time he was ready to test the staff and faculty on their knowledge of the history of Estonia and Tartu based on his previous lecture. The questions were tough, but all of them were eventually answered correctly. Even a few newcomers provided some correct answers. Each person who answered a question correctly was awarded a small prize - either a coffee mug or book.

In the end, the Pegasus docked back at the Dorpat as the sun began to set. The great time had by all was evident as they disembarked with big smiles on their faces. The cruise, filled with good food, drinks, and a wonderful history lesson proved to be an excellent social event for the BALTDEFCOL staff and faculty. It was a great start to the academic year and a sign of good things to come.



Charity Projects

Throughout the years, various charity projects have been conducted at the Baltic Defence College. Giving back to the society and making a change in the local community has always been important to the BALTDEFCOL family. This shows the good-heartedness of BALTDEFCOL people who are always ready and willing to help those in need.

This semester, the series of charity events started with a „In Memoriam“ charity run on 24th of October. It was organised by the Lithuanian contingent at the College. More than 40 BALTDEFCOL students, Faculty members and their families coming from various nations, including Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Ukraine and the United States, participated in a 3-4 km run around the Tartu Anne Canal to pay respects to the Lithuanian and foreign soldiers deployed in Lithuania who have lost their lives this year while being on active duty, and to provide material support to their families.



At the end of October, a charitable reflector campaign was initiated at the BALTDEFCOL to keep the students, staff and their family members safe during the long and dark autumn/winter days and at the same time do something good and worthwhile in the local community. The system was simple - buy one reflector and get another for a friend for free. Altogether, close to 400 reflectors were collected. This time, the College decided to share the reflectors with the kids of Tartu Herbert Masing School - a school for students with special educational needs caused by

various health conditions. In the morning of 2nd of November, some of the Joint Command and General Staff Course 2018-2019 students visited the school to deliver the reflectors. The students had an opportunity to interact with the local children, talk about the College and share their stories in a very pleasant atmosphere.



In the month of December, already for a third year, BALTDEFCOL students and staff made donations to the war-zone children of Ukraine. The donation event was planned to support children from Kurdyumovka village – approximately 10 km from the front line. BALTDEFCOL Latvian contingent handed over the sum of 373€ to LVA National Armed Forces Chief Chaplain Elmārs Pļaviņš. The money will be used to provide the children a day care center, and by thus letting them know they are not forgotten.



JCGSC Frisbee Tournament

Besides keeping the students mentally busy, the Joint Command and General Staff Course 2018-2019 has also challenged them physically. Each year, the students are offered an opportunity to take part in different sports activities in order to keep themselves fit and have fun together.

From August till October six syndicates were jumping, running and twisting around in Frisbee tournaments while developing various strategies to achieve victory. The games were emotional, sometimes tough but nevertheless fair. In addition to physical exercise, the tournament also served as a wonderful team building activity, abling the students to get to know each other better. The winners of this year's Frisbee competition have been identified and rewarded.



1st place – Pödder
2nd place – Gediminas
3rd place – Rožentsteins



Traditional Challenge Cup on Wheels

By Dr Valentin Abramov, Information Technology Systems and Support Administrator

Challenge Cup is a series of competitions where departments of the College compete against each other to win the ultimate trophy. There are usually 3-4 competitions per academic year - pistol shooting, bowling, go-kart racing etc. Challenge Cup promotes sports, friendly competition and spending some quality time with the colleagues.

One of Challenge Cup's traditional competitions is a Go-Kart race. This type of race has been conducted already for 6 times on the Põltsamaa Go-Kart racetrack. This time, almost 30 members of Support Staff, Faculty and Management Group came to the new Lange Go-Kart racetrack. 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 Mr Olavi Jänes, which gives team victory to Department of Political and Strategic Studies. Dr Valentin Abramov finished second and Ms Kaja Võsu was third.

TOP 5 OF GO-KART RACE

1. Mr Olavi Jänes	8:14.667	8 laps
2. Dr Valentin Abramov	8:15.624	8 laps
3. Ms Kaja Võsu	8:37.347	8 laps
4. SFC Ivo Kardma	8:41.520	8 laps
5. MSGT Eero Naudi	8:44.673	8 laps





*May the beauty of the Holiday Season
bring you joy and happiness all year round.
Season's Greetings &
Happy New Year 2019.*

Baltic Defence College

The Bugle
Est. 2009

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