

NORTHERN STAR

MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM - APRIL 2017



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AIRCOM CONTINUES TO WORK WITH ALLIED AND PARTNER AIR FORCES

ITALIAN ARMED FORCES CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND SECURITY

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ABOUT THE COVER

MEKO 200HN Hellenic Navy Frigate participating in Exercise KATAIGIS 2015;
Photo by: Nikos Panagiotopoulos

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COLOPHON

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Submissions to the Northern Star can be made to room F 1.21, Bldg. H 106 or e-mailed to pao@jfcbs.nato.int. Articles should be in Microsoft Word format and, whenever possible, should be no longer than 300 words. Photographs should be at least 9x6 centimetres and 300 dpi. The Northern Star is published monthly, with the exceptions of January and August each year. It is generally available around the first Friday of each month it is produced.

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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

Composed by: General John W. Nicholson, Commander, Resolute Support Mission



Resolute Support Mission in 2017: Building on Success and Realizing our Commitments

The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) were tested in 2016 and prevailed. Last year, the ANDSF executed their first post-International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) strategy and prevailed in combat against an externally enabled enemy. They prevented the Taliban from accomplishing any of their strategic objectives, including eight separate attempts to seize provincial capitals, and inflicted high casualties on their leaders and fighters. Their 17,000-strong special forces are among the best in the region, and the air force is rapidly gaining capability, having effectively incorporated the MD-530 helicopter into daily operations to conduct aerial attack and armed escort missions. Most importantly, the Afghan government and security forces influence and safeguard approximately two-thirds of the population who, at 87%, believe a return to Taliban rule would be bad for Afghanistan, and place a high degree of trust and confidence, at 76%, in their ANDSF.

Behind ANDSF success are the men and women of the Resolute Support Mission (RSM). The support, leadership, and dedication of SHAPE and JFC Brunssum has helped enable our success in Afghanistan and the region. Our Coalition has been together in this region for the last 10 to 15 years helping to build a modern Afghan military and security force. In 2011,

ISAF reached a height of 140,000 NATO and Coalition troops and led the counterinsurgency fight. Today, we are roughly down to one-tenth of that number, and our mission has evolved from counterinsurgency operations to training, advising, and assisting (TAA) our ANDSF partners who lead the fight against the enemy and secure their own country. Under the leadership of the Framework Nations – Germany, Italy, Turkey, and the United States – and Coalition partners like Georgia, the largest non-NATO Troop Contributing Nation, RSM is building an enduring regional partner in Afghanistan.

Our primary objective in Afghanistan is to prevent the country from being used as a safe haven for terrorists to attack our countries. Of the 98 U.S. designated terrorist organizations around the world, 20 operate in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region along with three violent extremist organizations. This is the highest concentration of terrorist groups in any area in the world. And while the membership numbers in some of these groups may be higher elsewhere in the world, as we are seeing in Iraq and Syria, the concentration of these groups in one region is important given their propensity to converge or of individual terrorists to switch allegiances. The convergence between these terrorist and violent extremist organizations poses a global threat. These groups benefit from complementary capabilities and networks that require our continuous pressure. The U.S. counterterrorism effort, named

Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS), focuses on these threats to our homelands.

With our Afghan partners, we remain focused on the defeat of Al Qaeda and its associates, as well as the Islamic State – Khorasan Province (ISIS-K), the ISIS-Main affiliate in Afghanistan.

U.S. Designated Terrorist Organization: AF-PAK regio

A-Qaida
A-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent
East Turkestan Islamic Movement
Haqqani Network
Islamic Jihad Union
Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan
Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps-Qods Force
Islamic State-Khorasan Province
Lashkar-e Tayyiba
Jamaat Dawa Quran
Jamaat-ul-Ahrar
Tariq Gidar Group
Tahrik-e Taliban Pakistani

Violet Extremist Organizations in Afghanistan

Taliban
High Council of Afghanistan Islamic Emirate
Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (signed peace agreement 29 September16)

Emirs Killed in Action

Taliban: Mullah Mansour - 21 May 2016
Tariq Gidar Group: Umar Khalifa - 9 July 2016
Islamic Jihad Union: Hamidullah - 19 July 2016
Al-Qaida: Faruq al-Qahtani - 23 October 2016

U.S. Counterterrorism Operations

Carried out over 350 operations against Al-Qaida and ISIS-K
40 Al-Qaida leaders, facilitators, or key associates killed or captured
12 top ISIS-K leaders killed and force degraded by 30% or 500 fighters

In 2016, these operations were very successful, both U.S.-only against Al-Qaida and its associates and ISIS-K, and with our Afghan partners in advised, enabled,



and partnered operations. In this, NATO RSM complements OFS. A capable and sustainable Afghan security force will serve as reliable, enduring partners who also maintain pressure on these regional terrorists and extremists, while helping to prevent future terror attacks against our countries.

Appreciating the strategic importance of Afghanistan in safeguarding our homelands and citizens, the international community reaffirmed their commitment to the country at the Warsaw Summit in July 2016, sustaining RSM beyond 2016 and funding the ANDSF through 2020. Then, in October, international leaders confirmed their intention to provide \$15.2 billion moving forward in support of Afghan developmental needs at Brussels. This dedication not only gave us four more years of advising, funding, and time, but bolstered the confidence of the Afghan people, security forces and leadership.

Building on this momentum and the successes of 2016, President Ghani and his administration directed a multi-year strategy called the ANDSF 4-Year Road Map to translate Warsaw and Brussels commitments into success. This plan further professionalizes the ANDSF so they can extend security and secure a critical mass, 75-80%, of the population; expands governance and economic development; and incentivizes the Taliban to seek reconciliation from

an Afghan government position of strength. The RSM TAA mission helps our Afghan partners realize this plan, progress further, and achieve long-term success. Coalition advisors placed at the right level and location serve as the foundation of this success.

In order to effectively support the ANDSF and help realize President Ghani's plan, RSM must properly resource and task organize to provide focused TAA that capitalizes upon lessons learned from the past two years. Force manning constraints limited TAA below the Corps, institutional, and Regional Training Command Levels, diminishing our ability to capture the true state of the ANDSF and ascertain the operational ground truth. Moreover, the increased use of Expeditionary Advisory Packages, which provide specialized advisory support to regional ANDSF commands, calls for enhanced Coalition support. The urgent need to further professionalize the ANDSF also demands a more concentrated approach to how we support ANDSF education and training institutions if we truly want to develop leaders who will carry Afghanistan to long-term security and sustainability. Fully manning the CJSOR and CE, in both quantity and quality, helps provide the expertise and TAA where it is needed most. More importantly, it allows the Afghans to apply the necessary combat power at the right time, space, and purpose to bring focused effects against the enemy.

In Afghanistan and the ANDSF, NATO has a reliable partner in the fight against those who threaten us and our way of life. The ANDSF fought bravely in 2016 and will do the same this year and in the years ahead. Our continued commitment bolsters their resolve. Capabilities-based TAA allows the ANDSF to build upon their past successes, compels the enemy to seek peaceful reconciliation, and helps President Ghani turn the commitments our Nations made at Warsaw and Brussels into long-term success. A capable, professional ANDSF and a continued U.S. counterterrorism presence helps protect us from terrorists and future attacks against our homelands. A secure Afghanistan, coupled with international development efforts, also helps ensure regional stability. Our continued dedication ensures Afghanistan and the ANDSF continue to progress in the years ahead – for the long-term security of their country and the protection of ours.

Lastly, as I write this from Afghanistan, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to the men and women of JFC Brunssum for the sacrifices they make for our countries and the people of Afghanistan. I also want to thank General Farina for his leadership and continued support to our mission. Our Alliance is making a difference in Afghanistan because of you and I am honored to lead and serve in this noble cause with you.

COMMANDER VISITS AFGHANISTAN



General Salvatore Farina, Commander Joint Force Command Brunssum, meets with Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani at the Afghan Presidential Palace in Kabul (22 Feb 2017).

The Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, recently completed his third visit to NATO's Resolute Support Mission (RS) in Afghanistan, 20-22 February 2017. Accompanied by his Political Advisor, Catherine Royle and other key advisors, the General had the opportunity to meet with several key figures on both the military and civilian sides. In addition to meeting with General John Nicholson, Commander Resolute Support and his leadership team, General Farina met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, National Security Advisor Hanif Atmar, Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, and U.S. Ambassador Hugo Llorens.

Over the course of the visit, General Farina was updated on the latest developments in NATO's RS Mission and given an opportunity to conduct meaningful discussions on the training, sustainment and resource status of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces

(ANDSF). General Farina stated "as the out of theatre operational commander, it is essential that I maintain situational awareness of operations on the ground in order to ensure our efforts are synchronized in support of the Resolute Support Mission. My routine trips to Afghanistan, though short in duration, help me maintain that link to the men and women on the ground."

During his visit with President Ghani, General Farina stressed that much has been accomplished within Afghanistan due to the strong commitment and sacrifice of those military and police forces who gave their lives in support of a stable Afghanistan. For his part, and on behalf of his entire country, President Ghani gave thanks for the dedication and daily sacrifice of the NATO forces operating within Afghanistan.

As NATO continues to provide the Train, Advise and Assist (TAA) support to assist the ANDSF build a sustainable and enduring security capability, the Afghans are building upon their success and continue to make progress despite the many challenges they face.

Their ability to simultaneously engage with complex situations on the battlefield, the continued growth of the Afghan Air Force, and the success of the Afghan Special Security Forces is a testament to the resolve and capability of the ANDSF. CEO Abdullah expressed his appreciation for NATO's support, stating that "TAA efforts are helping us move towards self-reliance, and the International Community will soon see the benefits of a stable Afghanistan."

The valuable work of the men and women supporting the Resolute Support Mission is helping to improve the security situation across the region and will have lasting impacts on the future of Afghanistan. General Farina was very pleased with what he saw during his visit, stating "I continue to see improvements within the ANDSF due in large part to General Nicholson's dedicated leadership and the efforts of NATO's RS Mission. Afghanistan is on the path to self-reliance, but will continue to depend on NATO's TAA efforts and International Community support in order to sustain their progress and compel the insurgents to reconcile."

VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Prepared by: Adjutant Shirley Ham-ter Haar (NLD MP)

20 FEB 2017



Spinners Raise Money for Macmillan Cancer Support

Brunssum, Netherlands - On Saturday 18 February a Spinning Event was held in the JFC Brunssum Fitness Centre to raise money in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.

The idea for the event came from Simon and Helen Ashwood of the British Delegation, who organised the serial and provided a delicious, healthy breakfast for each participant.

Everything was a great success with hundreds of Euros being raised by both 'spinners' and by the sale of raffle tickets.

21 FEB 2017



General Farina Visits Resolute Support Mission

Brunssum, Netherlands - The Commander Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, conducted a situational awareness trip to NATO's Resolute Support Mission (RS) in Afghanistan, for which he is the out-of-theatre Operational Commander in the NATO command chain.

In addition to meeting with General John Nicholson, Commander Resolute Support and his leadership team, General Farina had the opportunity to meet with President Ghani and National Security Advisor Atmar, Chief Executive Officer Abdullah, NATO Senior Civilian Repre-

sentative Ambassador Aramaz, and his successor Ambassador Zimmerman, U.S. Ambassador Llorens, Train Advise & Assist Command-West (TAAC-W) Commander Brigadier General Minghetti, and the Afghan National Army 207th Corps Commander, Brigadier General Mobin. Over the course of the visit, General Farina was updated on the latest developments in NATO's RS Mission and given an opportunity to conduct meaningful discussions on the training, sustainment and resource status of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF).

24 FEB 2017



General Salvatore Farina Provides Guest Lecture at LUISS University, Rome

Brunssum, Netherlands - General Farina gave a lecture at LUISS University within the framework of 'lectio magistralis' 24 February, in Rome (Italy). The General talked about NATO's current challenges, the organisation and its activities, and the complexity of countering international terrorism. He emphasised JFC Brunssum's tasks in supporting NATO's mission in Afghanistan.



VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

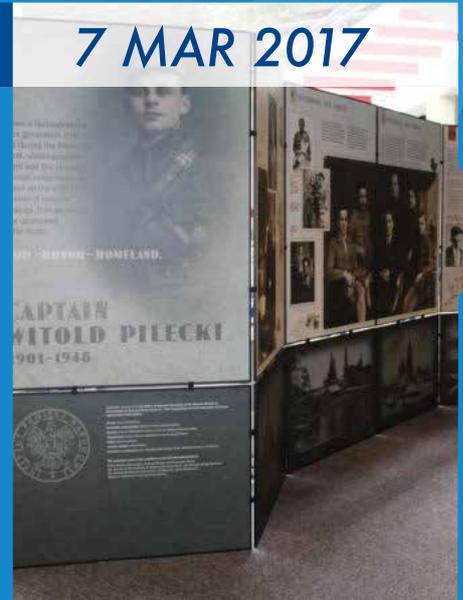
Prepared by: Adjutant Shirley Ham-ter Haar (NLD MP)

Witold Pilecki, a Polish Hero

Brunssum, Netherlands – Witold Pilecki was a Polish cavalry master, born under occupation, which influenced his life in many ways. His dream was to have an independent country. Therefore, he joined the Polish resistance during World War II in order to get imprisoned in the Auschwitz camp. There, he collected information and reported to the Western Allies about the atrocities in the camp. He also participated in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 and remained loyal to the Polish government-in-exile. He was arrested in 1947 and executed a year later.

Recently an exhibition of Witold Pilecki's life was held at the AFNORTH School. It aimed to lead visitors through a journey touching upon places related to the life of Pilecki; it introduced people who played an important role in his life and included pictures of his trial. The purpose of the exhibition was to remember a Polish hero who never stopped loving his country and fighting for the freedom of Poland.

7 MAR 2017



Project Manager and Director of Exercise VIKING 18 Visits JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, Netherlands – Major General Anders Brännström, the Project Manager and Director of Exercise VIKING 18 visited HQ JFC Brunssum on 7 March. Hosted by the Deputy Chief of Staff Plans, Rear Admiral Simon Hardern, a range of topics were touched upon covering support to the Swedish exercise VIKING 18 and other military cooperation activities.

7 MAR 2017



Enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup Lithuania

Brunssum, Netherlands - Decisions made at NATO's Warsaw Summit, in July 2016, as a consequence of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and continued interventions in eastern Ukraine are now a reality for Alliance members. The German Bundeswehr provides one of four rotational multinational battalion-size manoeuvre formations deployed in the scope of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) policy in the three Baltic NATO member states and Poland – the eFP Battlegroup in Lithuania.

Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway and Luxembourg will together contribute troops to the eFP Battlegroup, deployed to Lithuania, this year. Its nucleus will comprise mechanised and infantry forces; this will be reinforced by support assets such as CBRN defence, artillery, engineers and air defence units, if the need arises. The formation is to be fully operational by June 2017.

9 MAR 2017



9 MAR 2017



Norwegian Staff College visit JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, Netherlands – On 9 March 2017, Lieutenant General Fernando Alejandre (Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum) addressed staff and students visiting from the Norwegian Staff College.

In his opening remarks Lieutenant General Alejandre provided insight to the tasks of JFC Brunssum and the main topics that the Headquarters is currently engaged in. He also touched upon preparations for JFC Brunssum's NATO Response Force certification exercise, Trident Javelin, that will be

conducted later this year and involve input from NATO HQs based in Norway.

16 MAR 2017



Icelandic and Norwegian Military Representatives to NATO Visit JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, Netherlands - Mr Fridrik Jonsen (Iceland's Military Representative to NATO) and Vice Admiral Ketil Olsen (Norway's Military Representative to NATO) visited Joint Force Command Brunssum 16 March in order to familiarise themselves with the Headquarters' mission, role, tasks and challenges, with a special focus on the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) concept. Amongst other things, distinguished visitors were briefed on the way in which JFC Brunssum is addressing tasks allocated by SHAPE and responsibilities with regard to

the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan; engagement and outreach; and deterrence and defence. Led by General Salvatore Farina, Commander JFC Brunssum, ensuing discussion was focused on deterrence and defence. With an eye to geography, considerable debate focused on the Alliance's Frontier Defender plan and the way in which an emerging crisis in Iceland, Norway and on NATO's northern maritime flank might be addressed.

20 MAR 2017



Act of Remembrance

Brunssum, Netherlands - On Monday 20th March the Commander and staff of Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum conducted an Act of Remembrance to honour our loved ones and the sacrifices they make. A year has passed since the Brussels bombing attack which tragically took Mrs. Gail Martinez from us. To appropriately mark this milestone a service was conducted in our Chapel. This

was followed by the dedication of a JFC Brunssum Memorial Garden which has trees memorializing Lieutenant Colonel Anders Rangul (NOR) and Mrs. Martinez (USA). Mr. Steph Quaadvlieg of the Brunssum Veterans Foundation played a bagpipe lament in their honour.





“AIRCOM CONTINUES TO WORK WITH ALLIED AND PARTNER AIR FORCES”

Composed by: Allied Air Command Public Affairs Office

Photo by: Cynthia Vernet, HQ AIRCOM PAO

RAMSTEIN, Germany - NATO Air Chiefs, General Officers and Senior Enlisted Leaders from 25 Allied Air Forces and six Partner countries convened Mar 15 to 16 for the first NATO Air Chiefs’ Symposium of 2017. Chaired by the Commander of Allied Air Command (AIRCOM), General Tod D. Wolters, the symposium is held twice a year to discuss Joint and Air domain issues. For the first time, informational multi-media marquees, mission briefs and tours of the Operations Centres demonstrated AIRCOM’s capabilities and performance. The Air Chiefs made ample use of the opportunity to meet with both National Representatives and Allied Air Command General Officers, informing the subsequent symposium’s strategic discussions.

The Symposium focused on three segments from ‘Assurance Today to Deterrence Tomorrow’ and culminated with ‘Pathways To Our Future’. General Wolters welcomed the Air Chiefs and their accompanying Senior Enlisted Leaders presenting his perspectives on transitioning in both posture and mindset from engagement and assurance to deterrence and defence. “NATO, and its Air Forces, are facing a very dynamic security environment, one that recently has become more complex, fast moving and demanding,” said General Wolters. “We’re excited to see so many Air Chiefs accept our invitation to attend this forum and to discuss how we can together further align Air Power going forward”

AIRCOM’s subject matter experts delivered operational updates on Air Policing, NATO Airborne Early Warning,

Ballistic Missile Defence and the Alliance Ground Surveillance system, with a focus on future developments. Additionally Air’s contribution to enhanced Forward Presence (eFP), NATO’s strengthened deterrence and defence posture in the eastern and southeastern parts of NATO and tailored Forward Presence (tFP), Allies presence in the southeast part of the Alliance, were examined. The final segment discussed both operational and strategic synergies and initiatives that provide mutual benefit and security to Alliance members and Partners.

“We, here at Allied Air Command will proudly continue to work together with all NATO and Partner Air Chiefs to provide Air Power for a steadfast and defensive Alliance, committed to peace and security,” General Wolters concluded.

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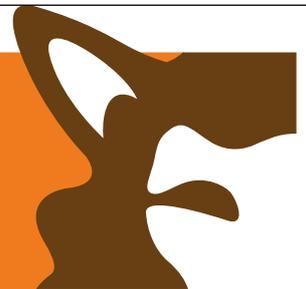


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ITALIAN ARMED FORCES PEACE AND SECURITY

Composed by: Major Giuseppe Amato, (ITA A)

Frecce Tricolori, Italian Air Force aerobatic display team.

Since the end of the Cold War Italy has taken part in more than 130 military operations outside its national borders. A considerable effort over the last decade alone, has seen Italy have an average of 7,300 soldiers deployed abroad; with a peak in operations from 1999-2005 when over 11,000 Italian men and women in uniform participated in 31 different missions under UN, NATO and the European Union aegis.



Today, the Italian Armed Forces maintain a significant active military footprint of circa 14,800 soldiers (8,000 in-country for homeland security and about 6,800 outside Italy) representing the **third largest national contributor to NATO** missions, the **second largest for EU** missions, and the **largest Western contributor to UN** missions.

Stabilization of the Balkans is Italy's primary strategic interest due to the physical

proximity of the region to the country. The main Italian effort in this region is participation in the NATO operation "Joint Enterprise" (KFOR) where Italy contributes approximately 550 soldiers and, for the fourth year, commands the entire operation.

In the Middle-East Italy is particularly active with a diversified contribution. Notably, as part of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Italy contributes with a contingent of about 1,100 soldiers and, on several occasions, has filled the position of Head of Mission and Force Commander (HoM/FC).

Italy also participates in the 'Coalition of the Willing' created in the aftermath of the proclamation of the caliphate in Syria and Iraq by the self-styled "Islamic State" (DAESH). The Italian Armed Forces contribute significantly to this operation ("**Inherent Resolve**") with **about 1,400** soldiers. These troops are deployed within the framework of Building Partner Capacity (BPC) in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan where they support the Coalition with manned and unmanned air assets, and a task force for the protection of the Mosul dam. Turning to NATO's Resolute Support Mission in **Afghanistan** (RS), Italy supports the Afghan stabilization process with a national contingent of around 950 soldiers; this contribution constitutes the Framework Nation of the Train, Advise and Assist Command-West (TAAC-W) in Herat and, significantly, includes the RS Deputy Commander.

In Africa, Italy supports numerous initiatives of the international community. First and foremost, Italian participation can be seen in the European Union (EU) capacity building missions in progress: the EU Training Mission in Mali (EUTM-Mali); the EU Capacity Building mission in the Sahel-Niger (EUCAP Sahel-Niger); the EU Capacity Building Mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel-Mali); in addition Italian participation can be found in the Horn of Africa where Italy leads the EU Training Mission in Somalia; further, Italian naval and air forces are to be found in the EU's operation 'Atalanta'. Under a United Nations (UN) mandate, Italian military engagement can be found in the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).



In and around the Mediterranean, Italy is one of the main actors of the many security oriented multilateral and bilateral initiatives designed to establish and sustain stabilization throughout the region. On 14 September 2016 **Operation "Hippocrates"** was launched following a specific request of the



CONTRIBUTION TO



Libyan authorities. This accounts for the presence of a contingent of around 300 Italian soldiers. They are tasked to provide **medical support to the Libyan forces** involved in eradicating the presence of DAE-SH and constructing/managing a field hospital at the airport of Misurata.



Of note, active Italian military air and naval presence in the Mediterranean averages at circa 1,400 troops. Besides national operations such as “Mare Sicuro” (an operation that provides protection environmental protection and maritime security) Italy participates, **under EU aegis, in the operation “Sophia” (Italian lead)**, with the aim of interrupting the criminal networks that conduct illegal people trafficking and provide training opportunities to the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy. Under a NATO flag, Italy contributes to the operation “Sea Guardian” that has been charged with two tasks: Maritime Situational Awareness and Maritime Security Capacity Building.

Italy strongly supports the security initia-

tives originating from the approval of the NATO Readiness Action Plan. The Italian Armed Forces provide staff to the Command and Control structures formed in the North-east Alliance area and **contribute regularly to the enhanced NATO Response Force** and the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force. Further, Italy supports and contributes to NATO’s new posture of defense and deterrence. Within the aegis of this initiative Italy guarantees military participation in activities related to enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) (with a company of circa 160 soldiers to be deployed to Latvia) and to those in the field of tailored Forward Presence (tFP) with training and personnel contributions within the Command and Control structures located to the Southeastern area of NATO member nation territory.

In seeking to sustain significant levels of military commitment into the future to NATO, EU and other international missions, **the Italian Ministry of Defense is embarking upon a deep transformation** process, in accordance with the policy guidelines articulated in the **“White Book”**, edition 2015. The Italian Armed Forces are, therefore, engaged in a governance review process that, inter alia, includes a rationalization of national leadership Command and Control structures in joint and combined environments that is in keeping with those established by its main allies and partners.

Continuing to support this level of commitment requires considerable resources. For this reason, Italy has recently established a regulatory instrument can deal organically with international missions. The “framework law” passed in 2016 (Law n. 145 of 2016) contains a general discipline that, in addition to regular procedures for the authorization and the financing of these missions, also provides a stable and uniform legislative framework that can be applied in all international scenarios.

Italy, through its armed forces, will continue to provide assistance necessary to enable the international community’s initiatives to support peace and global stability. This is a contribution that has grown without interruption since 1990 and, today, sees Italian military contingents deployed to 20 countries in operations/missions under UN, NATO, EU aegis, in the pursuit of unilateral or multilateral initiatives.

	ITALIAN	ARMED	FORCES*
		Today	2024
Army	97320		89400
Navy	29326		26800
Air Force	41011		33800
Total	168000		150000

*Carabinieri, also part of ITA Armed Forces, with the strength of 110000 unit.



NATO MEDIA EVENT ANNOUNCING NEXT AWACS ASSURANCE FLIGHTS CONFERENCE AT WARSAW

Composed by: Allied Air Command Public Affairs Office



WARSAW, Poland - A NATO media event was hosted at Warsaw International Airport today, on 20 February 2017, to announce the next quarterly scheduling conference for surveillance flights in support of NATO's Assurance Measures. The February 2017 confer-

ence is held at Warsaw on 22 and 23 February to send a signal of NATO presence in the Assurance Measures implementation area - NATO's eastern member countries. Furthermore, for the first time a significant national asset, the Polish Air Operations Centre (AOC), will be involved in the upcoming engagement term. To

showcase NATO's air surveillance capability to the media, one of NATO's AWACS surveillance aircraft, based at Geilenkirchen, Germany was on display at the event.

Following the Russia-Ukraine crisis, the Alliance has performed AWACS surveillance missions, surpassing





over 1000 flights in support of NATO's Assurance Measures. In November 2016 NATO's Allied Air Command, headquartered in Rammstein, Germany took over operational control of all AWACS missions and is now responsible for all mission-related planning, scheduling and coordination. Brigadier General Kevin Huyck, representative of Allied Air Command

said to the forty attending journalists "This quarterly planning event will continue our commitment and steadfast, undiminished support for the mission."

NATO's Assurance Measures are a series of land, sea and air activities in, on and around the territory of NATO Allies in Central and Eastern Europe,

designed to reinforce their defence, reassure their populations and deter potential aggression. AWACS surveillance flights in support of the mission are enhancing NATO's situational awareness. Their capability to command and control fighter aircraft furthermore provides opportunities for training with national fighter assets in a real world environment.





INTERNATIONAL NCO ADVANCED LEADERSHIP COURSE IN A MULTINATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Composed by: Chief Master Sergeant Stefan Grande (DEU F)

What a title for a course, I thought when I heard the first time about it, “International NCO Advanced Leadership Course in a Multinational Environment”; this really raises the expectations in such training, but can this be fulfilled?

What a title for a course, I thought when I heard the first time about it, “International NCO Advanced Leadership Course in a Multinational Environment”; this really raises the expectations in such training, but can this be fulfilled?

This course is aimed at senior NCOs at OR8/9 level and focused on developing leadership skills and enhancing the cultural awareness to enrich the abilities to serve and lead in a multinational environment. The course was directed by course commandant, Command Sergeant Major Michael Giroud, at the Swiss Armed Forces College in Lucerne.

Fortunately I was encouraged to apply and thankfully, I was lucky enough to be selected. So I joined a team of three from JFC Brunssum: Senior Master Sergeant(OR-8) Nathan Smith, Bigada (OR-8) Saul Dago and myself heading to Lucerne, Switzerland,

for a two week course from the 16th to 27th January 2017.

Upon arrival at the airport in Zurich I was able to realize how precise this course was planned and even the smallest details were not neglected, it was running like a Swiss clock. I like to point out just one of these details, which appears to me as the most important, which is the grouping of the students. Initially, the classes were dispersed by roommates, syndicates, seating plan and after establishing our behavior profile, we were purposely mixed taking into account the different personalities. This forced the participants to engage non-stop with other nationalities and characters, which really expanded our horizons and created a different view of the world around us.

The academics were created to provide a wide range of very useful tools for successful leadership such as behavior profiling, cultural diversity, decision making, conflict management, communication and much more. Some of the many highlights were the integration of high quality guest speakers including: Mr. Senn from Comexperts who conducted top-notch interview training; a briefing from Major General Ohm and Warrant Officer McCabe who not only presented the “Command Team Concept”, which was very impressive, but they

really lived it; and the inspiring introduction speech for the ethical decision making workshop from Brigadier General Lätsch.

One of the main goals was to take the participants out of their comfort zones into their courage zones. To speak up, step forward and accept the challenge. All the instructors and mentors had the right skills to ensure maximum student participation in class, syndicates, debates and teams, without pushing them over the edge in the stress zone.

Finally, I have to mention the superb hospitality of our Swiss hosts. Every ‘after hours’ event was staged even to the smallest detail and gave us a good insight of the cultural side of Switzerland, like typical music, sports and food. For the graduation ceremony they topped themselves, it was a magnificent event in a historical building, which framed this event perfectly.

I have to end now, because I’ve run out of superlatives, I just will express my takeaway from this course: every day I learned something new about the lessons and about myself.

Everything you do counts, what you don’t do counts equally, so step forward into the courage zone!



OTHER RANKS ASSOCIATION

Composed by: Premier maître J Claudon, (FRA N)



The Others Ranks Association (ORA) is a recognized association within the HQ Morale and Welfare Activities Program (MWAPC) authorized by the Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum). The initiative to establish a forum for the Other Ranks was coming from the current SHAPE CSEL, Davor Petek, when he was assigned to Brunssum years ago.

The purpose of the association is to enhance community spirit by providing member ORs of all services and

nationalities and certain categories of civilian personnel serving at JFC Brunssum, or retired members and their dependants, with opportunities to meet together in a spirit of goodwill and friendship.

The association is organizing activities for its members. Most of events organized by the association are members gathering around National Themes. Within this frame every nation has an opportunity to promote their culture, military heritage, their national approaches on NCO issues such as promotion system, training and educational uniqueness. The Senior NCO of the hosting nation gives

a presentation about National NCOs rules and numbers; afterwards they share some typical food and drinks from the hosting country founding perfect atmosphere for conversations and information exchange.

In addition the association have the opportunity to represent the views and opinion of its members through membership of the international Warrant officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Council (WOs and SNCOs Council).

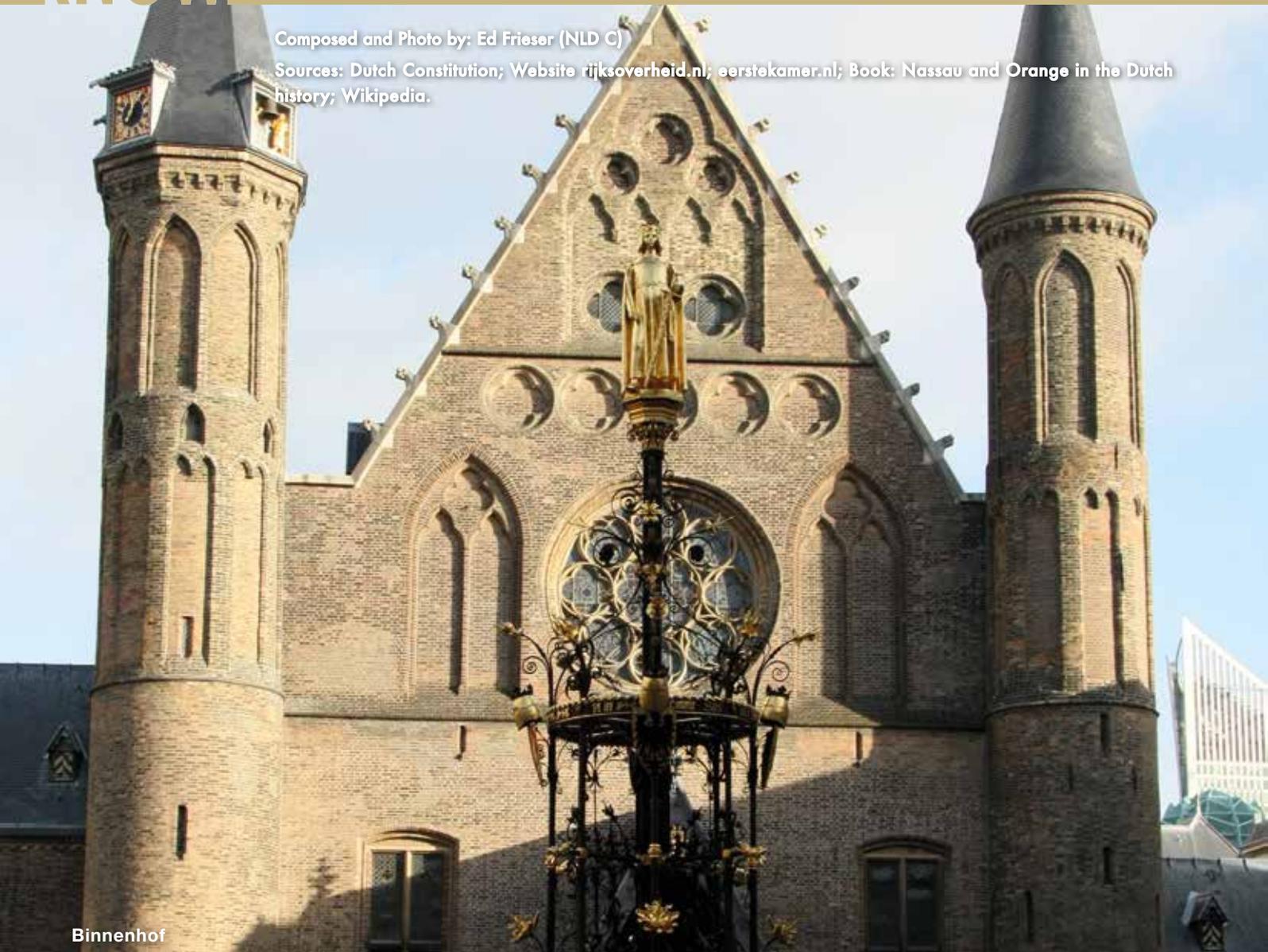
The actual Chairman is Csaba HERNÁCZKI, Master Sergeant, from Hungarian Defence Forces.



THE DUTCH CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY "A DEMOCRACY CONTINUOUSLY EVOLVING"

Composed and Photo by: Ed Frieser (NLD C)

Sources: Dutch Constitution; Website rijksoverheid.nl; eerstekamer.nl; Book: Nassau and Orange in the Dutch history; Wikipedia.



Binnenhof

In January of this year the Dutch Government constituted, based on the proposal of Dutch Minister Plasterk of Domestic Affairs and Kingdom Relations, a high level State Committee to study the Dutch parliamentary system or parliamentary democracy, and come with recommendations for change. With Kings-day coming up on 27 April, and the recent Parliamentary elections of 15 March in mind, the author thought it would be of interest to you to know

a little bit about the history and present Dutch Parliamentary System.

The Netherlands happens to be a Constitutional Monarchy or Parliamentary Monarchy, meaning that the monarch's authority is exercised in accordance with a written constitution or even unwritten jurisdiction.

History

During medieval times many monarchs in different counties and duchies in the

Netherlands existed. Their powers were usually attained via organized marriages. In the Burgundy era the Dukes of Burgundy managed to rule more and more regions. Via the marriage of Maria of Burgundy with Maximilian of Austria in 1477, these regions came into the hands of the Habsburgers. Their grandson, Charles V, obtained as Sovereign Lord even more regions and steered the Habsburg Netherlands into a reasonably well-organised Seventeen Provinces. His successor, Philips II of Spain, conti-

nued to unify these Provinces and the centralization of power. In 1581, however, rebelling Provinces in the North rejected the Spanish King. This should have made way for the Duke of Anjou, the French Crown prince, but was unsuccessful. When Anjou died in 1584, his intended successor, Elisabeth I of England, initially refused to accept the Sovereignty of the Netherlands. And, when Dutch Stadholder William of Orange was murdered in 1584 England started to openly support the rebellious Dutch provinces against the Spanish. Elisabeth I sent an English army in 1585 led by Earl Robert Dudley, as her representative, to aid the Protestant Dutch rebels against Philip II. However, this became a total failure. And thus the rebellious Provinces formed a republic, the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands. The Treaty of Utrecht of 23 January 1579, where it was agreed to reject the Spanish, was considered its constitution. The Power of these United Provinces rests with the States-General, the bicameral legislature of the Netherlands consisting of the Senate (First Chamber) and the House of (Second Chamber). In the Southern part of the Netherlands the Spanish King and later Austrian monarchs were ruling the patchwork of regions that rejected the centralized power and strongly defended their own privileges. The position of succeeding Stadholders from the House of Orange and Nassau-Dietz was not strong enough to become monarchs. They were merely “servants of the States”. In 1750 William IV of Orange Nassau, opposing the Regents and the State of Holland, was proclaimed hereditary Stadholder. But his son and successor, William V of Orange Nassau, could not act as monarch as the republican tradition was too strong. William V made his way to England in 1795 after the occupation by French Republic Forces. He spent ten years of his life in exile in

Hampton Court Palace London, Great Britain, and also at Castle Oranienstein in Germany.

Kingdom of the Netherlands

The northern Netherlands became, with help of the French occupation, the Batave Republic. On 24 May 1806 the Batave Republic concluded a treaty with the Napoleonic Minister of Foreign Affairs, Talleyrand. However, it was decided to introduce a monarchy in the Netherlands. And, subsequently, the Netherlands became known as the Kingdom of the Netherlands with its first constitutional monarch, King Louis Napoleon, the younger brother of Napoleon Bonaparte. The Dutch accepted this and, over time, King Louis became a popular King. Between 1810 and 1813 the Northern and Southern regions of the Netherlands became part of the French Empire. After Napoleon’s disastrous Russian Campaign, and the liberation of the Netherlands in 1813 by Prussian and Russian troops, William Frederik of Orange who meanwhile had gone back to London, set about restoring the House of Orange to its ‘rightful’ role in The Netherlands. He and Statesman, van Hoogendorp, requested the British Prime Minister (Castlereagh) to accept the wish to establish a monarchy and support the Dutch Government. Prime Minister Castlereagh agreed and initiated a plan, in 1813, to bring back Prince William Frederik, of the House of Orange, as Monarch and the return to a reinforced Province of Holland, combined and expanded with the Southern Netherlands. This would form a buffer against the perhaps too protrusive French. In the spring of 1813 the Prince of Orange, thus returned to the Netherlands provided by the British with his title as Sovereign Monarch of the

Netherlands, and made possible by the larger European Powers. On 30 March 1814 the Prince was officially crowned in the “Nieuwe Kerk” or New Church in Amsterdam as King William I. The new Monarch could build on a Unitarian state form as started by the French King Louis, with unified tax laws, codification, freedom of religion, care of the poor and education organized by the state. A new Constitution, however, in agreement between the Northern and Southern Netherlands had to be completed, a condition imposed by the European powers and accepted by King William I. The States-General agreed to a new constitution in 1815. In 1830 the Southern Netherlands declared independence to form the Constitutional Monarchy Belgium.

Parliamentary Democracy

From 1814 until 1815, the States-General consisted of only one chamber with 55 members that were elected per province by the provincial councils. In 1815 a bicameral system was introduced by amendment to the Constitution, establishing the House of Representatives (110 members, elected by the provincial councils, 55 for the North and 55 for the South) and the Senate (40 to 60 members, appointed by the King). In 1840 and 1848, the influence of the States-General was increased by amendment to the Constitution, and both Houses were given more instruments to scrutinize the work of the Government and to amend bills. To this day, the Constitution of 1848 forms the basis of the Dutch parliamentary democracy. After the constitutional amendment of 1848 the House of Representatives had one member per 45,000 inhabitants, directly elected by residents. The Senate had 39 members, elected by the provincial





King William I the first Dutch Monarch who returned to the Netherlands in 1813, standing with the Dutch Constitution.

councils, who on their turn are elected by the people. The rights of the States-General were vastly extended, practically establishing parliamentary democracy in the Netherlands. In 1956 the number of members of the Senate was enlarged to the present 75, and that of the House of Representatives to 150. Parliamentary elections take place every four years. A wide variety of political parties are now representing the people in Parliament. Following the March 2017 elections Dutch Parliament counts 13 factions. The States-General meet near the “Binnenhof” or Inner court in the center of The Hague. It meets in joint session at least once a year, at the opening of the parliamentary year, when the King gives his speech from the throne on Prince’s Day. And, on special occasions, such as when a States-General vote on a marriage of a member of the royal house, an inauguration of the monarch, or the death of a member of the royal house, both houses also meet in a joint session, “Ver-

enigde Vergadering”, with the President of the Senate presiding. These meetings take place in the “Ridderzaal” or Hall of Knights in the “Binnenhof”, except for the inauguration of the monarch, which occurs in the “Nieuwe Kerk” in Amsterdam. The rest of the time, the two chambers sit separately.

Today's Monarchy

The Netherlands of today is a Constitutional Monarchy or Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy, a combination of Constitutional Monarchy and Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy. This means that sovereign power is vested in the monarch, the ministers and parliament, and that the King and Ministers together form a Government. However, an important principle is that the King is inviolable and Ministers are responsible. This political responsibility was already part of the Constitution as early as 1848. It means that, as described in

article 42 of the Constitution, Ministers are responsible for the policies of the Government and not the King. The fact that the King is part of the Government does not mean that he can take decisions independently. The King can take decisions together with one or more ministers. In practice the Ministers take decisions and the King countersigns the decision. There is, however, always at least one Minister who also signs and who is politically responsible. Although the King appoints, dismisses and conducts the swearing in of ministers, the initiative of informing and forming a cabinet was taken over by the Second Chamber since 2012. However, the King as Head of State, during Cabinet formations, is regularly informed about progress. The King symbolizes the unity of the Dutch Government and in that capacity signs laws and royal resolutions. In addition to his formal role he also has an important binding-, representing- and encouraging role in society. He furthermore is the representative of the Kingdom, advocate of the Dutch economy and, as such, leads trade missions and pays attention to social affairs.

In conclusion

The Monarch’s role, over time, has immensely changed. From an absolute ruler and owner of a country he is now part of the Government in a Constitutional Monarchy that is controlled by Parliament. However, in January this year, both the First and Second Chambers requested to form a State Committee to study the Dutch Parliamentary system. In a letter to the Government they have described a number of important developments. Dutch citizens want to be more involved in policy and politics. European decisions become more and more important for the Dutch Parliament. Many tasks from the central government were transferred to the municipal level. There are enormous differences in election results; the Internet and Social Media have an impact on Parliament and democracy. The committee’s recommendations to the Government on any possible changes are expected in 2018. Hence a democracy continuously evolving.



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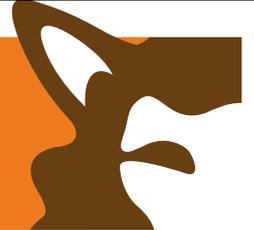
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ONE OF US

SENIOR AIRMAN NICOLE WHITE (USA F)

Composed by: Senior Airman Nicole White (USA F)
Photo by: Adjutant Shirley Ham-ter Haar (NLD MP)



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WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE IN THE NETHERLANDS AND WHICH POSITION HAVE YOU TAKEN?

I arrived in the Netherlands in June 2012. For my first two years I worked at Pass & Permits and Vehicle Registration. At the end of 2014 I moved to my original position which is in the headquarters security office.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR MILITARY CAREER.

My military career started in November 2009. My job in the Air Force is Security Forces. My first duty station was at Spangdahlem Air Force base in Germany from May 2010 to May 2012. The neatest thing about being there was that my brother and his family were also stationed there. I also went on my first deployment from Spangdahlem to Camp As Alyiah in Doha, Qatar, for six months. While in Qatar I worked in the Defense Biometric Identification center in-processing and out-processing new personnel and finger-printing third country nationals who worked there as well. After Spangdahlem, I arrived here at Brunssum where I worked in Pass & Permits and the Vehicle Registration office. After my first seven months at Brunssum I deployed to ISAF (now succeeded by NATO's Resolute Support mission) in Kabul, Afghanistan, for seven months. During my time at ISAF I worked in the reception center. This was a challenge because they put me (an OR-4) in an OR-7 position as the "Chief of billeting", not to mention this task is completely outside any job experience I've ever had. I quickly learned that Colonel's did not like to be told they couldn't have their own room! Although it was the biggest challenge I have faced thus far in my mi-

litary career, I did well and received 17 coins, one being from the SACEUR at the time, General Breedlove. Shortly after my return from Afghanistan I started working in the headquarters security office. Many people are familiar with me because I am responsible for the lovely electronic key system. My five and a half years at Brunssum will come to an end this November. It's been an awesome experience working in an international environment.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS?

ISAF (mentioned above)

TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOB AND WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES YOU HAVE TO FACE?

In the HQSO I am responsible for physical security. I investigate physical security violations in the HQ that the MOD Guards report. My biggest challenge since I've worked with the security office has been the electronic key system. It's the biggest project the company has done so there are a lot of kinks in the system to be sorted out.





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2017 SAT
1600

THE BOSS BABY

Alec Baldwin 97 min
Steve Buscemi



01 APR
2017 SAT
1900

GHOST IN THE SHELL

Scarlett Johansson 120 min
Beat Takeshi



07 APR
2017 FRI
1900

GOING IN STYLE

Morgan Freeman 96 min
Michael Caine



08 APR
2017 SAT
1600

SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE

Demi Lovato 89 min
Raiinn Wilson



08 APR
2017 SAT
1900

KONG: SKULL ISLAND

Tom Hiddleston 120 min
Corey Hawkins



14 APR
2017 FRI
1900

THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS

Diesel 136 min
Dwayne Johnson



15 APR
2017 SAT
1600

SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE

Demi Lovato 89 min
Raiinn Wilson



15 APR
2017 SAT
1900

THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS

Diesel 136 min
Dwayne Johnson



21 APR
2017 FRI
1900

UNFORGETTABLE

Katherine Heigl 100 min
Rosario Dawson



22 APR
2017 SAT
1600

THE BOSS BABY

Alec Baldwin 97 min
Steve Buscemi



22 APR
2017 SAT
1900

GHOST IN THE SHELL

Scarlett Johansson 120 min
Beat Takeshi



29 APR
2017 SAT
1600

SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE

Demi Lovato 89 min
Raiinn Wilson

CROSSCURRENTS FESTIVAL MAASTRICHT MAY 13TH

This summer the brand new CrossCurrents Festival is set to take over Maastricht's Sphinx quarter with Grammy winning musicians, innovative arts/science productions, film screenings with live soundtracks and young top talent in Limburg. Combining music, science, art and film, CrossCurrents revels in crossing genres and disciplines to showcase the most innovative projects in Maastricht and beyond.

This unique collaborative festival brings together totally different venues such as the Pop venue Muziekgieterij, Lumière (arthouse cinema) and Pathé (regular cinema) in Maastricht, in a unique format that is sure to turn heads.

Whats happening at CrossCurrents Festival?

Front and centre, the Muziekgieterij will host two stages full of world class musical acts with a focus on crossover artists, i.e. jazz+electro, jazz+pop, jazz+afro, this includes headliners such as grammy win-

ner Jacob Collier, Dutch afro-pop talent Jungle by Night and Adele's favourite pianist Neil Cowley (the most listened to pianist in the world thanks to his performance on "Rolling in the Deep" and "Hello").

Pathé cinema takes a different approach, presenting four films with live jazz soundtracks including a screening of Alfred Hitchcock's classic silent movie Blackmail brought to life by live music by Superjazz quartet BRUUT!

Lumière continues this theme with the landmark 1920s horror film Nosferatu (F.W. Marnau) and a live reimagining of the soundtrack by no less than Belgian Jazz Greats DJ Buscemi and pianist Michel Bisceglia. However, they quickly change things up with four projects created in collaboration by local artists and scientists from the University Maastricht and UNUMerit. Highlights include a dance performance by Limburg's own Joost Vrouwenraets and an incredible multimedia show incorporation Artificial Intelligence and the fantastic art work of Marie van Vollenhoven.

To top it all off the Conservatorium Maastricht is arranging an entire programme of young talent on an outdoor stage complete with delicious local food offerings.

PROGRAM:

Music

Jacob Collier, Jungle by Night, Cairo Liberation Front, STUFF., Bruut, Fluid Orchestra, Just another Foundry, BABS (Maastricht Jazz Award Winner 2016) - Lucy Echo, Conservatorium Maastricht Latin Band and Conservatorium Maastricht Big Band

Science

Dr. Ron Heeren - Dr. Bea de Gelder - Dr. Elia Formizano - Dr. Gerhardt Weiss

Art

Marie van Vollenhoven, Joost Vrouwenraets, Jan van Eyck, Joris Hoefackers

Film

Nosferatu (F.W. Marnau) with Dj Buscemi and the Michel Bisceglia Acoustic Ensemble-Blackmail (A. Hitchcock) with BRUUT!-For Your Legs Only with I Compani.



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Full name: Extension:

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FILM REVIEW THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS



THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS

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¹ the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

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