

# THE BUGLE

## BALTDEF COL NEWSLETTER



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**THE BUGLE**  
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### Bowling for victory!

The last event of the OPD Challenge Cup was very popular with 25 participants plus family and other staff members who cheered for the teams. As you can see everyone had their own unique style of throwing the bowling ball. Which one of them proved to be the most effective and who got the most points — read on page 8.

## Commandant's foreword

My first impressions of the college are first-rate. The staff as well as the students have performed well and demonstrated their devotion to the college. There are a number of achievements, but also some challenges before us. It is particularly important to improve social environment for our students, staff and families. Equally imperative is to create our common kudos and demonstrate respect to each other. We are a relatively small organisation and for success we need to act as one team. There will be different opinions, no doubt about that, yet if we employ respect and empathy to each other the college will prosper.

We all are part of life-long learning and constant adaptation, the world around us is a dynamic one and it demands us being open-minded and flexible. LtCol A. Kondrotas, who successfully finalised his studies and was granted a MA degree, is a prime example of that. It is not merely his success, but success of the college as well



and I believe that many others will follow his example.

There have also been some great initiatives from the students. Major Mike Pennell in particular, has advised for Thursday gatherings in the Cadets' Casino. It provides us a relaxed environment and opportunities for socialising. The task for this course is to make it a habit in order to provide preconditions for other courses after you to turn it into a tradition.

The spring is on the way — it comes slowly but steadily. It is a season for hope and joy. Enjoy your stay in Tartu! I am looking forward to working and socialising with you for my period of command.

BrigGen  
Meelis Kiili

## ESDC High Level Course Module

*By Four Meaher*

Didzis Nimants and Four Meaher of DPS recently had the privilege of representing the BALDFCOL at the European Security and Defence College High Level Course Module on the European Union's External Action and Common Security and Defence Policy. Our attendance was required because this meeting included the final evaluation of the ESDC Module hosted by the BALDFCOL in November. Our success at hosting the November module meant that there was considerable interest and sup-

port for the BALDFCOL hosting another module. We offered to co-host a module with our British colleagues at Shrivenham in 2013 which would coincide with Lithuania's presidency of the EU. This was quickly agreed to by the EAB.

The module in Warsaw focused on the European Union's increasing engagement with Eastern Europe, a policy that Poland has stressed since taking over the EU's. The syndicate exercises for this module involved making proposals for im-

proving the EU's External Action and Common Security and Defence Policy so that the EU could respond immediately to security crises. The ongoing North African Crisis was the subject of the syndicate work which provided an excellent insight into how the EU works or rather does not work, and what Brussels is considering to improve the system. We also visited the Warsaw Uprising Museum and enjoyed dinner at a Polish Palace as guests of the Polish Ministry of Defence.



## It takes only a little to save a life

Christmas season usually brings to people's mind more those who are in need and less fortunate. This year there was no big charity event held like last year, when we collected money for buying a bed-side monitor for the Tartu Children's Clinic. But BALTDFCOL did give a small but very useful contribution for the greater good.

As the blood donating campaign's slogan says: "It takes only a little to save a life". A group of Support Staff members decided to give their contribution to charity and donate blood. You may think it's easy to find a group of people out of 20 who would go and give blood, but it is quite a challenge. Donators have to be in good health and during winter-time it is quite difficult to find people who are not sneezing or have a cough at the moment or didn't have



*...Nor the faces of Merike and Meelis...*

it quite recently or who are not afraid of needles or have a tendency to faint when they see blood. But as it turned out there are several regular blood donors among our Support Staff members and we managed to lure along a few one-time donors. All in all we gathered a group of 6 people and on 3rd of December we visited Tartu University Hospital's Blood Centre.

The whole procedure — including filling in the health data chart, measuring of haemoglobin, blood sugar, blood pressure and finally the draw-



*Brave smiling faces of Kadri and Kerli show no signs of fear...*

ing of blood — takes around 30 minutes per person plus you have to relax a few minutes. After the procedure you can drink coffee or tea if you like and eat cookies. It is always more cheerful to donate with friends or co-workers and, as a proof of that,



*...and let alone Ivo's face.*

everybody had a smile on their face before and after donation. Or maybe it had something to do with the present offered after the donation. Every donor can

choose either a big chocolate bar, cocoa, muesli or a coffee mug from a range of different types with different blood donation symbols or phrases.

One by one staff members hopped on the seats and the donation procedure could begin. Although we were a bit worried that our driver Ivo who had to take us back to College was the last one to give blood and, as we know, some people feel a bit dizzy after the process, Ivo proved that our drivers are stronger than steel.

Altogether, BALTDFCOL donated 2,7 litres of blood and all the main blood types were represented.

Hopefully this will become a regular event and next time there will be more participants.

## HCSC 2010 graduation

Higher Command Studies Course 2010, which started from 9th August and graduated on 17 December 2010 was in my opinion not the easiest one for both the students as well as the directing staff — we had a change in the course leadership and new personnel started as planning officer just prior to the launch of the course. Also the course was fully integrated into the ILIAS based LMS (Learning Management System) which took some time to adapt. Despite those small challenges the course should be assessed as a successful one and as another important moment in the college continuing development.

The graduation of HCSC 2010 was remarkable due to the fact that the ceremony itself coincided with the change of BDCOL change of command event which definitely added special touch to the graduation.



There were 11 students from 7 countries on the course; two new flags were raised in the pools on the college foyer in addition to the three Baltic ones,



HCSC 2010 Graduation. (Photos by Oliver Toots)

UKR and GEO flags — the banners of New Zealand and of Slovenia were decorating the college entrance during HCSC 2010. Another moment worth noting was that we had an external student — Mr. Rene Värk from University of Tartu — who participated in the course in full and demonstrated 'in flesh' the cooperation between the Baltic Defence College and other universities' faculties.

Like in the case of all the previous courses the Writing Award was presented to the best student course paper. This year the award was received by LtCol James Patrick Kaio from New Zealand Army for his paper "What Lessons Can the New Zealand Defence Force Learn From the Transformation of the United States Marine Corps During the Interwar Period?"

Right now the planning processes for HCSC 2011 and CSC 2012 are ongoing and course DS is on the track. Hereby I would like to



take the opportunity to wish success to all the former colleagues from BDCOL on your so important job and for current staff of the Higher Command Studies Course all the very best!

LtCol Harri Ints  
Former PO HCSC



## Opening of the VTC room

The 21st of February was a remarkable day because, probably for the first time in the BDCOL history a room was opened with an official opening ceremony. Col Irgors Rajevs ceremonially opened the renovated VTC room with cutting the golden ribbon. Col Irgors Rajevs and Commandant Meelis Kiili both expressed great gratitude for the members of the IT and ESO section who were mainly responsible for implementing the necessary changes in the room.

So, what kind of changes were made in the room? First of all, a new ceiling attachment was bought for the projector and a wall attachment for the TV screen.



Col Irgors Rajevs cutting the ribbon. (Photo by Oliver Toots)



The renovated VTC room (Photos by Oliver Toots)

The VTC camera also got a joint-base. So the TV was placed on the wall, the projector is now attached to the ceiling and the computer was relocated. But as we are dealing with technical instruments, they also need cables and lots of them. So it took a lot of working hours and patience to get all the cables running and at their correct place.

In the future, the room should get curtains or a thick cloth of some kind to be drawn on one of the walls (or, if necessary, on both walls) in order to improve the acoustics and decrease echoing. All in all we can say that the renovated VTC room is now more modern and comfortable for holding different video conferences.

## New Members of the Staff

2011 has brought several new employees to BDCOL. First of all, the Higher Command Studies Course has a new Planning Officer LtCol Raul Õpik and the JCGSC will receive a new course director in autumn LtCol Mark Derber. We also have a new management secretary Kelli Nemvalts. We hope they have settled in nicely and will bring fresh ideas and good spirit to the team.

## Baltgirls' trip to Luke Dairy

By Silva Kiili

It was a start of a really stormy day in December when we, the Baltgirls, packed ourselves in warm clothes and left Tartu to visit the nearby sights. Through the thick snowfall (so thick that the driver could barely see the motorway) it took just about half an hour to get to our first point of interest — the Luke Dairy Farm.

A small dairy Luke Meierei is the only producer of soft-ripened and blue cheeses in Estonia. It was established in 2004 as an experimental farm of Estonian University of Life Sciences. The owner and manager of the dairy Aigar Brett shared his experience of starting the dairy from zero without any credits or investment supports. Later on he got support from the EU structural funds to build a new cow barn and a milking parlour.

Thirty different kinds of cheeses are produced in this small family farm so everyone can find something: blue or brie with sunflower, or with mustard seeds, with cumin or garlic or chilly, red



Baltgirls tasting the cheeses. Expressions on their faces tell more than a hundred words. (Photo by Silva Kiili)

mould cheese... The most popular cheeses can be found in grocery chains like Selver, Rimi, Stockmann, Prisma or Kaubamaja. Just look for the trademark 'Breti Blue, or 'Breti Brie'.

We tried some of them, even the smelliest and toughest one — Breti Karm. But it's true that the taste preferences can differ from

nation to nation. Like some of our ladies found — Breti Karm was pretty mild ...

'Yes, the dairy is small — too small to satisfy the Estonian market. And we also sell some cheese to Finland and Latvia,' commented the owner as he grasped for his mobile phone. 'I'm afraid this incoming call is from Latvia, and I have almost nothing left in store room...'

'What about your future plans?' I asked the owner. 'Well, a stylish room for guests is waiting to be finished, and the first Estonian cheese club is waiting to be formed, and we are planning an outside terrace overlooking the working cheese factory build on, and buttermilk pool for those who wish to look younger and...'. He seemed to be full of ideas.

After purchasing some nice fresh cheeses and having left the Luke Farm we decided to have a quick view on the Luke Manor close by. Instead we found a huge snow



Selection of different cheeses of the Luke Dairy. (Photo by Silva Kiili)





View over the Luke Manor

valley with some wall corners and rooftops glaring out from white hills. Thick snow was falling endlessly and sturdy wind was blowing stronger than before. We were lucky to find

warm welcome in a small and cosy Gardener House and have a cup of warm tea. Young hostess gave us a nice introduction to this manor complex. We found out that there was no main building — it had been destroyed

in 1944 together with some other parts of the old Luke manor.

Luke Manor Foundation was established in 2007, the Gardener's House was restored and the manor park reconstructed as well as the pond system was cascaded. So until now the biggest asset to Luke Manor is the beautiful park, where many different activities are held throughout the year, like Santa Claus World in winter time or Romantic Nights and open air concerts in summer time. But it is also just a place to come with family and have a chance to breathe some fresh air and have a walk in the colourful park of old Luke manor.

You can find Information about upcoming events on their homepage: <http://www.lukemois.ee/>. And it is just 25 km from Tartu! With keeping this in mind we were lucky to get home before the dark and snowdrifts on a motor ways.

## International Women's Day celebration

8th of March is celebrated in many regions as international women's day. How and whether this day is celebrated depends on the region. In Estonia those who celebrate it usually bring flowers to women. But as it is not universal the Estonian women do not expect to get any special attention that day and therefore the bigger was the surprise when we heard that the ENDC organizes a special event at the Cadets' Casino for all the women working both in the ENDC and in the BALTDEFCOL .

Not only did the ladies receive a long red rose, champagne and fruits upon arrival but there was also a surprise performer — local star singer Koit Toome with Jorma Puusaag on the guitar. Although the audience was quite modest at first, with every song they became more lively and the happy smiling faces revealed that they really enjoyed the event.



Women's day celebration at the Cadets' Casino . (Photos by Oliver Toots)



## OPD Challenge Cup

By LtCol Aare Tuvike

After the last Challenge Cup event the trophy went back to the Support staff team and, as a tradition, the previous holders of the cup handed it over during a festive ceremony. This time the ceremony also featured a special musical performance by LtCol Valerijus Šerelis with his exotic Iranian musical instrument.

This year the first struggle for the Challenge Cup took place on 10 March in Eeden Bowling Hall. Altogether, it was the fifth competition in the row of OPD Challenge Cup competitions that were started in March last year. So far Directing and Support Staff members have competed in very different events: in Go Cart Race, the Archery competition, the Darts and now already a traditional spring Bowling Competition.

This time all directorates and branches of the BALTDEFCOL staff were present in the bowling competition and that shows the growing awareness of the importance of the Cup (or growing interest in gaining the Cup). Some branches/directorates were joined in order to prevent a situation where the Support Staff team could take the Cup back to their possession again. Alas, the history repeated itself and the Cup remained on the shelf of the Support Staff.

The members of the winning Support Staff team were: Raido Saar, Paavo Reidla, Oliver Toots, Alar Lehesaar and Risto Kanketer with the total of 1210



Director of the OPD (previous holders of the cup) Col Ekroll handed over the cup to the Support Staff (Photo by Oliver Toots)



Commandant Meelis Kiili also cheered for the teams and made sure there was no confusion with the results (Photo by Oliver Toots)

SS team 1	SS team 2	OPD 1	OPD2	Dir Staff United
Berit	Raido	Aare	Risto	Ingemar
Merike	Paavo	Arunas	Artur	Maris
Kelli	Oliver	Kristian	Georgs	Vidas
Merily	Alar	Ron	Sten	Olavi
Kadri	Risto	Ainars	Finn	Marina
1024 points	1210 points	1109 points	1118 points	904 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	1 <sup>st</sup> place	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	5 <sup>th</sup> place

points. Special prize called "Little Golden Bowling-Man" was won by Oliver Toots from the Support Staff who individually gained 199 points for the game. He commented on his victory: "I was not in my best shape that day but I guess I can be quite satisfied with the result."

The event of the next competition has not yet been decided but rumour has it that it might be a Go Cart Competition. Last year the Go Cart Competition was won by the Support Staff so we'll see whether they will manage to defend their Cup.



Best individual score was made by Oliver Toots (Photo by Raido Saar)