

THE BUGLE

BALTDEFCOL NEWSLETTER



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Exercise Collaborative Effort II

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Exercise Collaborative Effort took place from 19.03-05.04. During the three weeks the students of JCGSC and CSC were divided into two Joint Operational Planning Teams and were tasked to develop a plan for Multinational Joint Peace Support Force (MJPSF) operations using the Zoran Sea scenario. This year, the Exercise Collaborative Effort II had a number of innovations. Air and Land Component representatives from Multinational

subject matter experts from Europe and Canada participated in the exercise. In addition, we had a language advisor joining the exercise to help the students improve their language skills. This exercise was one of the most visited exercises in BALTDEFCOL's history: including Swedish ambassadors, a delegation from Führungsakademie General Staff Course, the US Ambassador Michael C. Polt, RADM Mark C. Montgomery.

Commandant's Foreword

On the way to the future, BALTDEFCOL is an important institution in shaping the mindset of our future operational as well as strategic leaders. Nobody doubts that BALTDEFCOL is an exceptionally vibrant and dynamic organisation. All parties who task us and whom we work for have recognised our quality outputs and contribution to security matters. Yet, it does not mean that our success can be taken for granted. There are many issues which are still relatively fragile or lack support of our principals. Once convinced in the rightfulness of our cause, it is our task to fight for the understanding and support of the three Baltic States to put our ideas into practice. A German [philosopher](#) Arthur Schopenhauer once said: "All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident." In BALTDEFCOL, the self-evident matters are SGO system enhancement and CSC, what I am convinced should be conducted annually. But what seems logical to us may not necessarily be obvious to others. After all, it is a multinational community whom we report to and all of them have different organisational cultures as well as approach to military education.

Yet, the initiatives mentioned above have universal character and are the core of adult learning and comprehensive ap-

proach. Therefore, we need to put more effort into explaining the essence of our proposals to gain the much needed support. That, in turn, requires well-functioning teamwork.

That leads me to the question – are we a team or just a group of people working or studying together for a defined time. I believe that we are the former rather than the latter. Of course, we have our own subdivisions but that is normal for every organisation and I see lively and active interactions between departments. I am also pleased to see that our preferred philosophy for students being our colleagues on course is well rooted in the college. So, that makes me deem that we have good foundation to be a team.

Teamwork is measured in collective performance, yet it is also a collection of individual efforts. There are number of activities behind the scenes we tend to take for granted without paying too much attention to. The course office people do a marvellous job to support JCGSC, CSC and HCSC. Kristina Tagel, in particular, is an example of excellence in performing her duty. I also would like to appraise the performance of our college Sergeant Major, Meelis Koger. All major activities at the college have been conducted in smooth and seamless manner due to his ability to organise and lead. The recent IST is a good ex-

ample of that.

I am also rather pleased of our students' performance and progress. The CSC attendees are particularly impressive. Not everybody is willing or able to come out from ones' comfort zone and to adapt and deliver. I truly think that our military course members are benefitting greatly from having civilian course mates.

Most of the academic year is behind us, we – students as well as distaff – have learnt a lot from each other. Yet, the life is not just about learning, it is much more varied. Use the time to attend different cultural events as well as to spend it with your families. Also the time has turned the tide and day is longer than the night. In Estonia, daylight is a treasure, so enjoy it and make the most of the local spring.

BrigGen

Meelis Kiili

Integration of the CSC of 2012

Civil servants course of 2012 started on 9th January. The course started with 8 people from 5 different countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Moldova and Japan). In order to kick off, the course had two Icebreaking events — a skiing event in Otepää and a skating event in Lõunakeskus. Ever since the civil servants have been working and studying like a true team.

After two weeks an additional student from the US joined the course. During the first month the students received a huge amount of background knowledge about military history, components, COPD, international law, leadership and on various other subjects in order to prepare them for the upcoming integration.

The long waited integration took place on the 6th February when the civilians were merged with the JCGSC. Although there were concerns about how smoothly the integration will go and about possible problems that may arise,



Civil Servants Course's ice breaking event in Otepää. (Photo by Didzis Nimants)

everything turned out better than expected.

All the syndicates had arranged a social event to integrate the civilians to their team. Most of the syndicates went bowling and some went out to have dinner—either way the ice was broken

and team work could start. Now after spending 2 months in the syndicates and participating in the exercise, hopefully, the civilians are moving towards a better understanding on how the military think.

“Sound of Academy“ presents — Baltic Defence College

Tampere Maja in Tartu is organizing a series of concerts called “Sound of Academy” where each time musicians from different higher education institutions come and give a short performance. The first institution in this series was Baltic Defence College when our directing staff member Ron LaGrone and an ex-directing staff member Valerijus Šerelis gave a guitar performance on February 22nd.



Ron LaGrone and Valerijus Šerelis at the Tampere maja.

Valerijus Šerelis played the guitar and recited some songs in Lithuanian. He was followed by Ron LaGrone who also played the guitar and sang Baptist hymns and some classical old American songs. The performance ended with the duo performing 4 songs together.

Baltgirls' Trip to the West Coast (of Estonia)

By Silva Kiili

On a cold wintry day – it was -24°C in Tartu – we started our tour towards the small town Haapsalu on the West Coast of Estonia. Upon arrival we found the temperature more moderate and enjoyable, just -7°C. In a small local restaurant, owned by famous Estonian painter Epp Maria Kokamägi, we had a delicious homemade lunch and met our guide, an English teacher from a local school. After lunch we took a tour in the Haapsalu Episcopal Castle. To be honest, there are not many places in Estonia to visit this time of the year, but most points of interest will allow visitors if called beforehand. So the castle was opened specially for us.



Baltgirls at the Haapsalu Episcopal Church. (Photos by Silva Kiili)

formed a new diocese consisting of Läänemaa, Saaremaa and Hiiumaa and designated Gottfried, an abbot of

were permanently fixed by a legate of Pope, Wilhelm of Modena in 1234. The first residence of the diocese was located in Lihula, where with the help of the Order the Bishop transferred the diocese's residence to Vana-Pärnu, which was burned and destroyed by Lithuanians ten years later. A new centre for the diocese was chosen in Haapsalu, where a cathedral was built and an Episcopal stronghold was started (<http://www.haapsalulinnus.ee/?lang=en>).

Nowadays the Castle is known by the White Lady's Legend and every year in August the dramatic play takes place on a territory of the Castle where at midnight on a full moon the ghost of White Lady appears on a window.



Tchaicovsky's bench. (Photos by Silva Kiili)

Haapsalu Castle has a rich history, dating back to 1228, when the Archbishop of Riga

Dünamünde Cistercian monastery, as the bishop. These boundaries of the new diocese

After visiting the Castle we had a guided tour in the middle of the city and along the sea. We sat on the famous Russian composer Tchaikovsky's bench, walked on an ice road between Haapsalu and the Noarootsi peninsula, bought some handicraft items from small local shops and headed back to Tartu.

On our way back we visited the Tori Church which had been lately restored. This stone church was built in 1854. The house of worship was destroyed during the II WW, on 22. September 1944 when the retreating German troops blew up Tori Bridge and set the church on fire, of which only the boulder walls remained. Local people wanted to restore the church, but the Soviet authorities denied it. Instead, a Tori roadman was given an order to demolish the ruins and grind the stones. Luckily this order was disobeyed and walls of the church became a shooting range for the Soviets. Whilst it was a dreadful sin against the place of worship, at least it saved the church from complete demolition. The idea to restore the church that had been damaged in the fire of the war was raised again in 1989, when a monument of the War of Independence was reopened in the cemetery of Tori.

In the memorial church of the Estonian soldiers, there is a unique altar that consists of millstones brought from three different places in Estonia. The stones that have ground bread



Ice road between Haapsalu and Noarootsi peninsula. (Photos by Silva Kiili)

grain symbolize destiny and sufferings for the Estonians, going through the wheel of history like through millstones (http://web.zone.ee/tkirik/tori_00.html).

In this church we had a tour guided by the chairman of the Heritage Protection Society of Tori Parish. We could see memorial plates on the church

walls for our allies from all around the world and our fallen soldiers throughout the history, through the different wars and conflicts.

We arrived back to Tartu late in the evening, tired, but happy about the interesting day we had on the West Coast of Estonia.

Upcoming Cultural Events

- **2.04-29.04 — “Tartu flavors” in 10 different restaurants. Each restaurant serves a specially selected Estonian dish with an appropriate drink**
- **15.04 at 13.20—BDCOL vs NDC basketball match at Kõrveküla sports hall**
- **Annual Tartu Student Days 25.04-01.05**
For more information visit:
<http://www.studentdays.ee/programme/programme>
- **NordicSounds. EIVØR 30.04 at 19.00 Vanemuise kammersaal**
- **Jazzkaar festival 20.04-29.04**
For more information:
<http://www.jazzkaar.ee/en/>

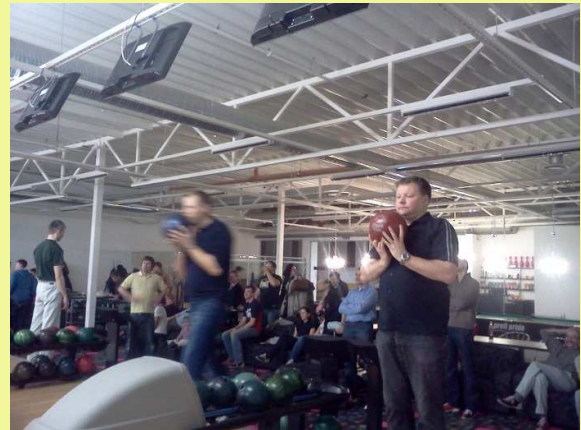
Challenge Cup Returns to the OPD

By LtCol Aare Tuvike

This year's first OPD Challenge Cup Competition (CCC) was held on the 21st of February. The Challenge Cup is a tournament in which the members of the Directing Staff and Support Staff of the BALTDEF COL compete. The tournament consists of various competitions. Last event in February was held as the bowling competition where 5 teams from different BDCOL staff departments were participating. The challenger and competition organizer was the Commandant's Office as the Cup Holders. Since last November the Commandant's Office team had been the Cup holder. Previously the Support Staff team has been holding

Vainamäe can share the honour of the Cup Holders for a while, at least until the next competition. Individually, the best Bowler, the COL Zdzislaw Sliwa from the OPD, so at least part of the prize has returned to the home department.

As a tradition, the Spring Competition will be held in May as a Go Cart Race.



Becoming one with the ball. (Photos by LtCol Aare Tuvike)



Next time extra points for the most graceful roll? (Photos by LtCol Aare Tuvike)

the prize for most of the time. Six different kinds of competitions have been carried out since the event was initiated. Last time for the OPD team to win the Cup was the Archery Competition in Autumn 2010.

February's Competition was won by the united team where representatives from the College management, DPS and DMO were competing. Now, COL Ingemar Gustafsson, LtCol Mark Derber, COL Igors Rajevs, Mr Olavi Jänes and Cdr Annes

the BALTDEF COL in order to create and sustain good internal communication and to contribute to a collegial working climate within the College.

The Operations Department Challenge Cup (hereafter the Challenge Cup) was initiated by the Operations Department in April 2010. The intent of the Challenge Cup is to encourage and promote informal social activities for the entire staff of



Directing staff members saving their energy for the next roll. (Photos by LtCol Aare Tuvike)

JCGSC&CSC International Study Tour to Naples and Rome 2012

By LtCol Darius Vaicikauskas

March 4 2012 (Sunday)

There is a portion of truth in that famous saying that all roads lead to Rome. I was sitting in the plane which was heading towards Rome. Still hoping that airplane will not be hijacked or attacked by Vulpecula Surface to Air missiles. By the way, Salem gave a great recipe how to identify whether it is safe to fly with the airplane or not. You should enter the airplane and greet everyone "As-Salaam-Alaikum" and if someone replies "Wa-Alaikum-Salaam" better choose another airplane or change your flight time. Finally, Rome airport. Business in Italy as usual, waiting for two hours to get the luggage.

A grade students getting into bus called A, the rest to B. By the way, they have a strange Italian bus company called DANBUS. Perhaps Danish had their influence. Sitting and traveling to Naples. On the way to Naples we passed a burning car. Most probably Gomorra conducted their Vendetta. Who said that mission in Afghanistan is risky. The same risk is everywhere, probability just a bit higher.

Finally, we're in the hotel room. Living with Darcy, implementing Course Director's project. I feel responsible to warn Darcy that sometimes I am snoring. It seems he is not so happy with the initial warning. Someone said that multi-nationality is a nightmare. As always, there are plusses and minuses.

I see how our students are desperately looking for a possibility to get out of the hotel and have their first pizza and wine. I also get obsessed. Joining Lithuanian community and walking to the closest restaurant.

Pizza is outstanding, wine as well. Getting back to hotel. Interesting, will Darcy survive the first night with me?



Students' favourite dining place in Naples (Photo by Maj. M.Petkevičius)

March 5 2012 (Monday)

Morning. Darcy is calm as a Belgian, not complaining, most probably Lithuanian snoring sound did not disturb him.

Going to HQ JFC Naples. Briefings last all day. I start to feel that pizza and wine obsession coming on again. Few more briefings and we are back to what we came for.

The briefing in MCC MOC was short, that was the only beautiful thing.

Evening, the best syndicate Alexander going under the command of Annes to see the town. He knows some special place with a panoramic view. Syndicate is sceptical. Travelling with metro without tickets -- Annes failed to explain how to mark the tickets. Creating a legend about what to tell the controller. Finally, we are there, the view is amazing and syndicate no longer sceptical towards Annes. Not much time left till

last metro train, decision is taken to return to hotel. Traveling back. Train stops on half way and driver explains that we should get out as the train won't travel. Business as usual, Italy. Thank god Ivica knows the way back. Everyone in the syndicate trust him and the authority is given to Ivica to lead the way back. The cozy trip ended in one of the local restaurants.

March 6 2012 (Tuesday)

Morning. Darcy starts to complain. I suggest to redirect the complaints to the Course Director.

US 6 fleet. I'm shocked, it's a town inside the town. Most probably expenditures to administrate that base for one week exceed the Baltic States' yearly budget. Briefings are quite interesting but thoughts about Pompeii don't give me rest.

Pompeii. Outstanding tour. Wish to have a journey back in time to 79 AD, just before mount Vesuvius went off.

Evening. Walking in Naples, indulging local beauty. Visit card of Naples - trash.

But that is OK compared to some Indian localities. Locals seem happy despite the fact that almost the whole of the Baltic States are living in one city.

As always, evening inaugurated with pizza and a lot of wine. Chihiro, Berit, Reela and Dmitrij assure us that they enjoyed time spent with the Lithuanian community. Agree, we are Baltic Italians, and Italians are usually liked by women.



Maj Wright and Maj Martin taking a break. (Photo by Maj. M.Petkevičius)

March 7 2012 (Wednesday)

Morning. Darcy is happy that we'll be "divorcing" in Rome, he expects to have another roommate -- future showed that he was even more unlucky. Trip to Rome, nothing special to report.

Weather perfect, 21 degrees plus. Expect that this summer in Baltics will be more or less the same, but no guarantees. That's why all Baltic students trying to get sunbath during the short stops.

Rome. Hotel. Enjoying solidarity. Poor Danish colleague Per, due to his broken leg he can't enjoy multinational snoring night.

Guided tour in Rome. Amazing city. Great gigantism. Old history, interesting what Jonathan is thinking

about this so ancient city. For the Americans 200 years is already great history. Guided trip ends in Vatikan. Going inside the gigantic church. Amazing view. Re-



Baltic penguins on the docks. (Photo by Maj. M.Petkevičius)

grettably can't visit the pope Benedict XVI since he is planning his tour to Mexico. We had even one BDCOL cup to present him, but... Next time distaff should plan to visit the Pope, would be interesting to see his staff planning capabilities. OK, we are on our own. Small Lithuanian team reinforced Ukrainian students heading back to the city centre. Dinner in one cozy bar with an obsessive waiter. This time lasagne and wine. Should admit that lasagne was tasty. Small talk around the table and decision is taken - we'll have a short shopping tour. Gytis is happy, he was offered a women's handbag for 45 euros. Gytis started negotiations with that Bangladeshian seller, and unbelievable success—after 10 minutes of extensive talks, bag price dropped to 5 euros. But Gytis refused to buy, since bag was fire proof. Seller tried to burn handbag with his zip, but... must be fake one. Since real bags should burn. On the way back to metro someone greeted us in Polish language. We looked at each other looking for some Polish face features, did not find, decided that Rzeczpospolita had left traces on our faces or behaviour. Tendency to get sick is growing. Almost one third of the class carries Arthur's virus. You need to identify who might be guilty, then immediately feel better.

March 8 2012 (Thursday)

Morning. Nobody is complaining that I am loud. I met Darcy at the entrance of the hotel, he was silently smoking. Darcy said that I was nothing compared to Priit. At one moment Darcy thought that hotel is collapsing. Well, from wolf to bear. Briefing in NATO Defence College. Self-confident Spanish lieutenant colonel explaining the history of the NATO Defence College and other related facts. My respect. Briefing about religion is outstanding, I was on the way to force my topic about cultures, but somehow remained passive. Questions and answers period was interesting. Our questions machine SGO Annes also gave a question that I did not copy despite the fact that we have all 3s according STANAG 2001. Interesting experience in that college, hope to be back for studies after, let's say, some 5-7 years. But have to learn how to formulate long questions. Perhaps I should get some training from Andris. Conclusion from weekly power point battles: I enjoyed mostly JFC Naples briefings. Evening. Dinner. Great food and especially wine. The class got so hooked that Aare was forced to ask everybody to go out. So, a coherent feast turned into a fragmented party celebration in the rooms. And this phase, I guess, is full of secrets.

March 9 2012 (Friday)

Morning. Nice to live among internationals when You are in the room alone. Can't complain. But I think the Course Director's project was not a total failure. We'll see during the Baltic tour. Hope to live with a civil servant, would be a greater experience as militaries are militaries all over the world. Trip back home, nothing special to mention except one fact that made me most happy and Aigars upset. Sitting among two girls was not a bad experience. Hope that the seating plan will be changed one more time.