

THE BUGLE

BALTDEFCOL NEWSLETTER



June '12 Nr. 14

Farewell to JCGSC 2011/12 & CSC of 2012

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Another academic year is about to end. Both staff and students of the Baltic Defence College have done extremely good job to make this year very special for the college. Ending academic year has run in most warm and inspiring atmosphere, especially thanks to our students' enthusiasm and positive attitude. It was a great pleasure to observe how JCGSC and CSC melted into one team and strived towards common aim, together with our faculty providing support, sometimes a little boost and sometimes a little suffering. But all this served a common purpose –

to meet summer and leave college with fulfilled expectations. Hereby, I would also like to thank our supporting personnel who's devoted work has made the achieving of academic aims really smooth and enjoyable.

I wish you all a great summer and prosperous future to the colleagues who continue their path after studies or service in the college. You are always welcome back to Tartu.

BrigGen
Meelis Kiili

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Est. 2009

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A Fond Farewell to OPD's Stalwarts

By Col Zdzislaw Sliwa



Academic Year 2011/2012 is almost over. This is a time of happiness for all our course attendees and the BALTDEF-COL staff, as the long awaited summer holiday is just around the corner. At the same time for quite a few of the Operations Department (OPD) members, it is a time to say goodbye, as the end of their tours has come. Col **Zdzislaw Sliwa**, LtCol **Finn Jensen**, LtCol **Arunas Dzidzevicius**, Cdr (SG) **Sten Sepper** and LtCol **Georgs Kerlins** have completed their service here in the College. Most of them served in this military assignment for 3 years, more or less. From a professional point of view, an assignment to a military educational institution is an important period in an officer's development. This time allows considerable growth in experience, exposure to new ideas, and refinement of teaching skills. It is a period of learning for all of us conducted within the unique international and regional environment of BALTDEF-COL whose members represent a point of view from both European and Trans-Atlantic perspectives. The demands on the staff of the Op-

erations Department are considerable and we were working closely together to do our job as well as possible. At the same time, we were cooperating closely with the entire College staff to achieve our common goals. Many hours were spent at work, but nature of our work was predictable which allowed time with our families and the chance to see the beauty of the Baltic States. Our families also had an opportunity to become members of the BALTDEF-COL family. This is because we made many occasions to be together. These occasions were a wonderful chance to understand other people, gain a different perception of life, and learn about our cultures. Such informal meetings in a friendly environment have helped to build lasting relationships.

We are leaving and we will continue our service in our respective countries. Zdzislaw will be back in Poland and he will be assigned to the National Defense University in Warsaw. Finn will stay for just a few days after the summer holiday and will continue the implementation of the COPD in Afghanistan, for sure with success.

Arunas will continue to his home city, Kaunas, and will take command of an engineer battalion. Sten will continue development of Estonian maritime capabilities as the Commander of the Estonian Navy. Finally, Georgs will stay in the academic world with an assignment to the Latvian National Defense Academy, shaping cohorts of new officers for the Armed Forces. It is a rather emotional period for all of us, as we have developed friendships with many staff members of the BALTDEF-COL. On the other hand, we all know that this is a constant part of our military life – as we are always on the move to a new assignment. We will miss our time in Tartu, the home city of the Baltic Defense College, however we hope there will still be a chance to visit both the beautiful city and the people we respect and admire. We will look at the BALTDEF-COL Website with nostalgia, thinking about the time of our military service in that notable institution among our friends and colleagues.

BALTDEF COL Canoe Trip to Soomaa

By LtCol (Ret.) Ron LaGrone

A group of 10 people from the BDCOL Directing and Support staff visited Soomaa National Park on 31MARI2. The purpose of the visit was to experience a unique fifth season – the high water season. The waters here are extraordinary. A number of local rivers from surrounding uplands, meet in a relatively small area between the bogs and

from enthusiasts as far away as Japan. Anto Kergand organized and led the trip which was also made possible due to the special efforts of Marko Must. We ar -



rived to Soomaa on Saturday morning. However we were well prepared to face capsized. Luckily and after the issue we had no need to practice it. Everyone was happy to be back - warm enough and dry.

As Anto is a bit of a canoe and water sports enthusiast, we should expect more opportuni-

swamp forests. Once or twice a year, when snows melt across the country, they fill with melt-water and overflow the banks creating a unique landscape. The event is famous all over Estonia and is also visited

flooded open areas, rivers and... the forest! The forest part was extraordinary because we usually walk there on foot instead of



(Photos by LtCol Anto Kergand)



glid- ing past the snow and ice covered trees in a canoe. The trip lasted around 5 hours and was 15 km long. We avoided any accidents on ties to participate in these outdoor events. If you have some interest, check out statistics soomaa.com where you may find more information including visitors from other countries to the area for this season.

JCGSC and CSC Graduation

“The society that separates its scholars from its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting by fools.”

—Thucydides—

At long last, the academic year for the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) and Civil Servants Course (CSC) has come to an end!

These two rigorous courses brought together 46 Officers and 9 Civil Servants from 16 different nations, and the professional transformation for all participants was quite remarkable. In retrospect, it is important to acknowledge the performance of a select few.

First and foremost, special thanks go to the ever-charismatic **LtCol Darius Vaicikauskas**, Class Leader for this academic year. Serving in this capacity is a thankless job, but Darius readily assumed the role with a high level of enthusiasm and professionalism. Without a doubt, his efforts were greatly appreciated.

Learning Area 1 covers the fundamentals of a true Combined / Joint Operations education. Of these building blocks, educating Officers and Civil Servants on the NATO Comprehensive Operational Planning process is clearly the cornerstone. This year, OPD applied significant time and effort in properly teaching this essential process through a combination of detailed lectures, syndicate tutorials, and well-crafted exercises aimed at exposing integrated Officer and Civilian teams to complex planning scenarios. Ultimately the

planning efforts culminated with participation in Combined Joint Staff Exercise 12 “SWEDEX”, which immersed Officers and Civilians into an operational staff environment focused on execut-

ing operational plans. *“I believe all the hard work and effort put forth by the Officers and Civil Servants this year allows them to depart the BALTFDEFOL*

with a solid understanding of planning and executing combined / joint op-

erations,” commented COL Jan-Erik Mikkelsen. Over the course of the rigorous learning process, several Officers and Civil Servants distinguished themselves: **Maj Kjartan Søyland, Maj Mindaugas Petkevičius, Maj Darcy Wright, Maj Jon Martin, Maj Linas Pakutka, Marit Priinits, Milda Kriauciūnienė,** and **Mindaugas Gečys**.

Within Learning Area 2 “International Security and Strategy”, **Maj Andris Sprivul** demonstrated a deep appreciation of the nuances of strategy and **Maj Darcy Wright** shared deep insights into the use of military aid to the civil authority. Also of note were solid efforts by **Maj Jon Martin** and **Maj Dmytro Lanovyi**.

Learning Area 3 covered the different aspects of “Defence Planning”, and **Maj Per Erikstrup Falkenberg, Maj Kjartan Søyland, Maj Darcy Wright, Maj**



Jon Martin, Maj Linas Pakutka, and **Milda Kriauciūnienė** earned the highest marks. *“Eventually, all Officers will have to deal with Defence Planning in their careers, and a strong foundational understanding of these concepts will underpin their future efforts in providing key capabilities and resources for operations. Therefore, the ability to understand and develop these capabilities brings Officers to a higher level of expertise when it comes to subsequent employment,”* said LtCol Monika Mertinaitė.

Within Learning Area 4 “Professionalism, Leadership, Ethics, and Management”, **Maj Inguna Bubuče, Maj Mindaugas Steponavičius, Maj Kjartan Søyland, Maj Mindaugas**

Petkevičius, Maj Jon Martin, Maj Aurelijus Motiejūnas, Maj Darcy Wright, Maj Linas Pakutka, LtCol Darius Vaicikas, Marit Priinits, Milda Kriaučiūnienė, and Mindaugas Gečys consistently pro-



duced first-rate efforts which spanned the entire academic year. *“Leadership is not a sector that we can choose to enter or leave, but is omnipresent. We Officers are leading and being led. Effective leadership requires individual courage, commitment, and judgment – there’s no template available. These particular Officers and Civil Servants have demonstrated an enhanced understanding of these ideas,”* emphasized LtCol Mika Kerttunen.

Lastly, Learning Area 5 “Academic Writing” produced a singular exceptional performer. **Major Eero Tepp** produced the best Individual Study Paper with his work entitled *“Military and Non-Military of Combating Piracy – Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea”*. His paper was the unanimous selection for the Joint Course’s **Best ISP Award**, and he will be formally recognized at

the Graduation Ceremony for his commendable efforts.

It is also important to note the participation of our Civil Servants. In January, nine civilians representing six countries and a multitude of ministries and governmental organizations set foot on the Baltic Defence College campus to undertake a significant challenge. For the first time, the Civil Servant Course curriculum was merged with the Joint Course. These nine Civil Servants, most with minimal military background, undertook an arduous program focused on joint operational

planning. *“It was amazing to watch their transformation from beginning to end as they learned to work alongside their military counterparts in the planning of operations,”* said Didzis Nimants. With that, the military component of the BALTDEFCOL salutes **Mindaugas Gečys, Chihiro Imai, Milda Kriaučiūnienė, Berit Marksoo, Uģis Norītis, Marit Priinits, Reela Toomsalu, Lilia Vasilachi, and Kevin Gaughan** for a job well done.

The JCGSC and CSC do not function as courses without selfless support personnel working behind the scenes. Special recognition goes to **Kristiina Tagel, Kaie Ehrenberg, and Kadi Salu** for the incredible administrative support provided to our courses. **Alo Abiline** also labored tirelessly to keep a roof over our heads and the cable TV running in the Ida Street Apart-

ments. Likewise, a robust support staff, led by **SGM Meelis Koger** and all the hard-working personnel on the first floor, was an invaluable part of our Team. On behalf of the Officers and Civil Servants, *“Suur Aitäh”* for all you did on our behalf.

Furthermore we would like to express our sincere gratitude for



the outstanding efforts of the Syndicate Guiding Officers – **Ron LaGrone, Saulius Stonkus, Monika Mertinaitė, Sten Sepper, Annes Vainamäe, Maris Robežnieks, Didzis Nimants, Artur Lille-nurm, and Giedrius Valintėlis**. Each played an instrumental role during this academic year as first-rate coaches, mentors and teachers.

In closing, the Baltic Defence College commends each of you for your hard work, perseverance, and high level of performance. Yours is a significant accomplishment and we wish you all the best for your future endeavors!

JCGSC and CSC Course Directors

Baltgirls' Trip to Tallinn

By *Silva Kiili*

Typically for BaltGirls it was a warm and sunny day when we started our trip to Tallinn. First point of interest was the renovated and newly opened Tallinn TV Tower. When Estonia was still behind the Iron Curtain, this was for many Estonians a window to the free world – at night one could even catch sight of the lights of Helsinki. The Tower was built for the 1980 Olympic regatta – the exhibition inside this gives a good overview of the nostalgic 1980s and the gloomy events of 1991 when Estonia regained independence. From a height of 170 meters, ancient Tallinn and the glistening Baltic Sea appear to be on the palm of your hand. We were happy to have lunch on the very top of the Tower. The food was delicious! We could also defy the heights on the adjacent outdoor deck. After TV Tower our next destination was the medieval tower museum Kiek in de K ok and

Bastion Passages. The exhibition took us to a time journey that began in 1219. With the help of innovative video- and sound-effects and means of multimedia

tory of the passages – an interesting experience indeed!

Next stop was outside of Tallinn with stunning view on 30 meters high T risalu cliff. Unfortunately this cliff has accumulated a negative reputation as a "popular" place for suicides, especially among young people. We also visited Keila-Joa waterfall – the third most powerful waterfall in Estonia after Narva and J gala, which is 6 meters high and 60–70 meters wide.

On a way back to Tartu we had a dinner in Vikings Village – having pure Estonian food: bacon as the main dish and *kama* for the dessert.



Train to the future.

the birth and evolution of Tallinn, the history of town fortifications and the most significant military events are introduced to us. The time train in the bastion passages took us to 2219. The other part of the passage display concentrated on the his-



Windows have been built right into the floor, allowing you to feel like you are suspended in the air, 170 meters above the ground. (Photos by *Silva Kiili*)



Baltgirls travel group in Tallinn Old Town.

Traditional OPD Spring Challenge Cup on Wheels

By LtCol Aare Tuvi

Traditionally OPD Challenge Cup Spring Competition was a Go-Cart Race. This type of race has been conducted already for 2 times. Over 20 people from Support Staff, Directing Staff's different departments and from the Management came to Põltsamaa Go-Cart racetrack. The Cup claimers and holders fought for the Challenge Cup on the 850m long track. According to the qualifying lap results the contestants were divided into 3 final groups.



Best colleagues always race side by side each other.

An individual Champion and the winning Team (alias the Cup Holders) were decided during the A-final race. Without any doubt the winner of the individual race was Olavi Jänes. Only Cdr Sten Sepper could provide competition to him. As in the A-final there were 2 team members from Support Staff and OPD teams, the winner in the team contest was decided between 2 teams. As the finishing sequence gave equal points to both teams, the winner was found out after comparing the time results of the race. According to the results the Support Staff team was 8 seconds slower than the OPD team and consequently they are now the Cup Holders. The previous Cup Holder was the Commandant's Office who won the last Challenge Cup in Bowling.



And the first place goes to.....

TOP 5 OF GO-CART

RACE:

1. Olavi	9.17
2. Sten	9.24
3. Paavo	9.34
4. Valentin	9.49,01
5. Saulius	9.49,81



.....Olavi! Legally the results are not subject to appeal. (Photos by Oliver Toots)

JCGSC 2011/12 & CSC 2012 Tree Planting

This year's JCGSC and CSC students decided to leave a footprint of their studies here during the whole 11/5 months and do something memorable. Decision was made to plant a maple tree in front of the dormitory house at Ida street. During the unofficial graduation party a special alms box was created for the tree and everyone had the chance to contribute either with one euro or more.

On 14th June the students gathered in front of the dormitory and the plantation process could begin. Although initially the tree was supposed to be planted in front of Ida I house, it turned out that there was asphalt quite close to the ground so a new place was selected close to Ida Ia.

The digging students were supported by Darius' guitar play.

It was the last comprehensive effort of the two courses before the official graduation ceremony. The beautiful tree symbolizes the successful integration of the two courses.



1. first try...



2. Houston, we've got asphalt!



3. second try....



Collaborative effort I



Collaborate effort II



And finally: Incredible success! (Photos by Oliver Toots)