NATO Training Mission team visits MC

“Substantial change over the past year” was highlighted in a lecture to students at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies from the NATO group that trains Afghan military forces.

A contingent from NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan spent the day at the Marshall Center talking to staff members and interacting with more than 140 students in the Program in Advanced Security Studies Dec. 9. The group also visited the NATO School in nearby Oberammergau Dec. 10.

“Given the mission and composition of the group, I thought it would be a good idea for our course participants to hear from practitioners in the field,” said Dr. Matthew Rhodes, PASS executive director. “I want them to give the students a better idea of what they are actually doing and what the mission is.”

Speakers noted the difference in one year’s work. In training the Afghan National Army, the mission has 1,430 advisers. Almost 2,000 of the instructors are in the Afghan National Army and train about 6,000 soldiers per month.

For the Afghan National Police, there are 650 trainers. Almost 800 are Afghan National Police instructors training about 8,500 per month at 37 training sites across the country.

According to the mission, Afghan National Security Forces stand at about 263,000 people, including a recent graduation of women officers into the Army.

“Trainers and training provided by the military community are the key to the success in Afghanistan,” said British Army Col. Nigel Jefferson, director of the mission’s strategy and plans directorate.

Afghan Brig. Gen. Asadullah Akramyar, the deputy executive officer to the Afghan minister of defense, thanked the Marshall Center audience, which included three Afghan students and participants from 59 other countries.

“Our efforts and your nations’ efforts will ensure success,” the general said.

According to Colonel Jefferson, the mission’s training doesn’t end after an Afghan leaves an instructor’s classroom. “I must stress,” he said, “that there is continued training and development once soldiers are delivered to the field.”

Dr. Rhodes said some of what was said will be familiar to the Afghan students, but the reinforcement of the commitment was worth the visit. “It’s a validation of the importance of their country and of this mission,” Dr. Rhodes said.

“If man does find the solution for world peace it will be the most revolutionary reversal of his record we have ever known.” — George C. Marshall
George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies—December Activities

Flagship security studies program graduates 140

One hundred forty students from 59 countries graduated from the Program in Advanced Security Studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies Dec. 17.

The 12-week program provides graduate-level study in security policy, defense affairs, international relations and related topics. PASS consists of core studies and electives, which include assigned readings, seminar discussions, debates, panels and role-playing exercises, as well as field studies.

After participants complete the core studies, they meet in elective seminars relevant to their professional development, choosing three from more than 30 electives.

Minister Jiri Sediivy, first deputy minister of defense for the Czech Republic and a former professor at the Marshall Center, provided PASS 10-10’s keynote speech. In the address, he talked about the recent NATO Summit in Lisbon and his time as a professor at the Marshall Center.

Alumni discuss Bulgarian national security

The topic of good governance served to fuel discussions on the national security strategy that the Bulgarian alumni association organized for parliamentarians, alumni and other security professionals on Dec 7-8.

The two-day event gave alumni, inter-ministerial security officials, parliamentarians, academics and other civilians the opportunity to discuss the draft national security strategy, both broadly and in relation to Bulgaria.

The first day began with an outreach networking event. At the event, Dr. Todor Tanev, professor of political science and public management, Sofia University; Dr. Todor Tagarev, associate professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and head, Centre for Security and Defence Management; and emeritus professor Trevor Taylor, Cranfield University and professorial fellow at RUSI, took time to comment on the draft strategy.

Parliamentarians from foreign policy and defense; internal security and public order; energy and tourism; and budget and finance committees attended as well as the U.S. Embassy’s deputy chief of mission, political officer and representatives from the office of defense cooperation.

The roundtable was opened by the Deputy Defense Minister Valentin Radev; U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Susan Sutton and German Embassy Permanent Representative, Dietrich Becker.

For the first panel, Professor Tanev, Dr. Tagarev and Professor Taylor discussed various aspects of the strategy in the context of good governance with emphasis on inter-agency cooperation, transparency, modernization and effective management of security and defense.

The second panel members, Marshall Center graduates, Col. Petar Mollov (EP2003-1), Rakovski Military Academy; and Borislava Krateva-Bratanova (LPASS 2006-4), Agency for National Security; and Georgi Tsvetkov, also from the academy, discussed a model for strategic thinking and the national security strategy in the context of counter-terrorism.

This panel discussed strategic thinking, the security strategy in the context of counter-terrorism and defense investment policy. Lively discussion and questions followed both panels.

The alumni association scheduled this event to help shape an environment for effective interagency cooperation and good governance in the strategy implementation phase.

The next day 50 Marshall Center alumni and other interested security professionals met at the Central Military Club in Sofia to hear two panels discuss the national security strategy.

The panelists included representatives from the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Roloff said.

The national security strategy, designed in June and debated in September by the Security Council, received an endorsement by the Council of Ministers shortly after both events and was sent on to Parliament.

Graduate-level security studies program begins April 1

Applications for the new joint master’s degree program at the Marshall Center are being accepted for a program that begins April 1.

Along with the Bundeswehr University, Munich, the Marshall Center is conducting the Master in International and Security Studies program that lasts 12 months.

Participating students in the program will earn a graduate degree in international security studies. The program was originally announced in 2009, but was delayed for further review. A second signing ceremony Nov. 9 relaunched the program.

Students accepted for the program will pay about $13,000 in tuition. After nine months of study, they’ll spend three months writing a master’s thesis.

Dr. Ralf Roloff, who manages the program for the Marshall Center, said he’s elated to finally get the Master in International Security Studies program off the ground.

“This is a big step forward in the quality of our programs at the Marshall Center,” he said. “This is a big field of study and will improve the quality of our students.”

Dr. Roloff said the students’ time at the Marshall Center is spent with practitioners of security studies as well as professors from the Bundeswehr University.

As part of their year-long stay, students will also enroll in the Program in Advanced Security Studies and attend other applicable courses, according to Dr. Roloff.

The Marshall Center joins other Defense Department institutions offering a master’s degree program to a worldwide audience, including the National Defense University in Washington D.C., and the Naval Postgraduate School in California. American students can get tuition assistance through the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Roloff said.

The Marshall Center’s instructors provide about 40 percent of the coursework while the Bundeswehr University offers the remainder.
Graduates are then linked to the Marshall Center’s 8,000 alumni members from 125 countries via an electronic global network, specific outreach events, and conferences.

For more information, contact the campus advanced studies center at the Bundeswehr University by calling (49) 8690044530 or sending email to info@casc.de. The program’s official website is www.casc.de/miss.

Language course supports mission in Afghanistan

Eleven participants from five European countries studied tactical communications terminology in English at the Partner Language Training Center, Europe.

PLTCE conducted the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team Workshop Dec. 7-17 at the Marshall Center. Participants attended from Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. Estonia and Georgia sent participants for the first time while two English language instructors from the Czech Defense Language Institute also attended.

Participants familiarized themselves with military radio communication terminology associated with medical evacuation, improvised explosive device reporting, artillery call for fire, and aviation close-air support.

Additionally, participants learned about the military decision-making process and operation orders, as well as how to conduct after action reviews.

Many of the participants will continue training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, before deploying to support Afghan National Security Forces.

Simulation use demonstrated for defense education

The Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes sent a team of three to Kazakhstan and the Kazakh National Defense University Dec. 16-24 to demonstrate the use of simulations for defense university education by the U.S. military colleges.

Dr. James Sterrett, deputy chief of simulations, Digital Leader Development Center; Dr. William Davis, department of joint, interagency and multinational operations, Army Command and General Staff College; and Dr. Thomas McManus, U.S. Army War College, taught Kazakh officers the use of two different simulation programs to train basic tactics and drive staff training.

The instructors also taught a class on simulation design, discussing how the war college used the experiential learning model. Also covered were types of games, training with simulations and games, and how to conduct an after-action review.

The trip featured a tour of the university, and concluded with remarks by the deputy director of the education department.

MC alumni visit Manas transit center

Marshall Center alumni from Kyrgyzstan visited Manas Transit Center Dec. 11 for an orientation and discussion.

Thirty alumni from ten Kyrgyz ministries and government departments attended the one-day event at the transit center at the Bishkek International Airport, Kyrgyzstan.

Air Force Col. Dwight Sones, director of the transit center, briefed the group on general functions of the center.

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House passes MC resolution

A resolution in the House of Representatives commending the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies passed Dec. 2.

The resolution, originally proposed June 10, 2009, was referred to the House Foreign Affairs committee and passed by a voice vote. The resolution’s sponsor was Rep. John Tanner of Tennessee. The full text of the resolution is available here: http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=hr111-528

December distinguished visitors

+ Brig. Gen. Asadullah Akramyar, Col. Nigel Jefferson and Dr. Martin Loicano, NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan, visited Dec. 9 to present a lecture to PASS participants and receive an orientation.

+ Minister Jiří Šedivý, First Deputy Minister of Defense, Czech Republic, visited Dec. 17 to give the graduation address to PASS participants.
**Group plans for 2011**

Members of the Partnership for Peace Consortium Study Group on Regional Stability in South East Europe met with members of the Austrian National Defense Academy for a working group administrative and planning meeting Dec. 9-10 in Vienna, Austria.

The meeting, held at the defense academy’s Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management, opened with an update about recent activities of the Consortium. Participants focused on the outcomes of the October Senior Advisory Council meeting in Berlin, and then reviewed working group activities to identify improvement opportunities.

The Consortium’s study group on regional stability in South East Europe has been assessing the post-war development in the Western Balkan countries and its implications for the region and beyond since 1999.

The highlight of the meeting was a generational change within the leadership of the study group. Study group co-chairs Prof. Dr. Mladen Stancic, from Croatia and Prof. Dr. Plamen Pantev, from Bulgaria, were released from their positions after more than eight years of exceptional support for the study group and the Consortium.

To replace them, Filip Ejdus from Serbia and Dr. Sandro Knezovic from Croatia were elected to succeed in the respective positions as co-chairs of the group.

The commandant of the academy, lead the ceremony and thanked both chairs for their invaluable longtime engagement as co-chairs of this successful study group. The inauguration of the two young professionals as new co-chairs of the study group supports the process of important rejuvenation.

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**Teams meet on military education curriculum**

The three writing teams responsible for preparing the first-ever curriculum for professional military education for partner countries met for the final time in December.

This major project, underway for all of 2010, is the work of the Partnership for Peace Consortium’s Education Development Working Group.

Hosted by the Austrian Defence Academy, the curriculum writers put the finishing touches to the three levels of the curriculum: pre-commissioning, junior officer, and command and staff.

The overall project leader, Dr. David Emelifeonwu of the Canadian Defence Academy, led his team of volunteers with considerable skill and respect for the demands on their time away from their normal jobs.

Educators from defense education institutions in the US, Canada, Romania, Austria, Switzerland, the Baltic Defense College, the NATO School, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Ukraine contributed their expertise. Dr. Emelifeonwu will now oversee a rigorous peer review of the curriculum.

NATO HQ has offered to print and circulate the curriculum writers put the finishing touches to the three levels of the curriculum: pre-commissioning, junior officer, and command and staff.

NATO’s Political Affairs and Security Policy Division is planning a formal presentation of the curriculum to North Atlantic Council in the spring of 2011.

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**Alumnus assigned to ISAF**

Congratulations to RADM Ryszard Demczuk (LC 1998-3) graduate and a former Marshall Center “Graduate of the Month” - pictured with GEN David Petraeus) on being assigned to the position of deputy chief of the Combined Joint Interagency Anti-Corruption Task Force, ISAF HQ, Afghanistan. In addition to the Marshall Center, RADM Demczuk is also a 2009 graduate of the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.


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**Partnership educators plan annual conference in Moldova**


Members of the working group from 10 countries met in Vienna, Austria for the educators program to plan the agenda for the May 30-June 3 annual conference taking place in Moldova.

The conference will consist of a three-day multinational educators conference followed by a two-day intensive workshop for Moldovan Defense Academy faculty.

During the meeting, participants received an hour-long presentation on gender issues by Daniel de Torres, deputy head of special programmes, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, Switzerland; and a 90-minute presentation on the Bologna Process.

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