

Seminar Report

Quo vadis Europe? Common Security in Europe in the 21st Century

Master of Peace and Security Studies (M.P.S.) 2010/2011

European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA) 2010/2011



Institute for Peace Research
and Security Policy
at the University of Hamburg



German Armed Forces,
Youth Relations Officers



Arbeitsgemeinschaft Staat
und Gesellschaft e.V.



Seminar guidance:

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July 17 to 22, 2011

Bonn, Eschweiler (near Aachen), Geilenkirchen (Germany),
Brussels (Belgium), Brunssum (Netherlands)

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*Linguistic Revision by Cátia Ranchordas Dawood and Victoria Redmond
Editing and Layout by Ellen Holder and Yumi Igarashi*

Introduction

From July 17 to July 22, 2011, twelve students from the M.P.S. programme, four students from the E.MA programme as well as three external students participated in the seminar on European Security Policy. The seminar took place in Bonn, Eschweiler and Geilenkirchen in Germany, Brussels in Belgium, and Brunssum in the Netherlands. The seminar was conducted in cooperation with the German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr) as well as the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Staat und Gesellschaft (Consortium of State and Society). It was organised by the Youth Relations Officers Captain Axel Kukuk and Mr. Dennis Aust. Dr. Johann Schmid and Dr. Patricia Schneider from the IFSH also accompanied the students throughout the seminar.

The central purpose of the seminar was to gain a deeper insight into the European security policy by studying various organisations, the structures and the operations of European institutions and NATO. For this purpose, both military (Technical School Land-Systems and Army School of Technique, NATO HQ, NATO Joint Force Command, NATO E-3A Alliance) and civil (EU institutions) components were introduced to give a comprehensive overview of the topic. The focus was on the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and European security and defence policy. Aside from learning about the experiences of those in the field and what different operations entailed, the complexity of decision-making processes and the distribution of competencies were also examined. The controversial discussion points related to changes in the European security policy after the Lisbon Treaty and the remaining challenges for the ISAF mission regarding the scheduled hand-over-of-responsibility for security to Afghan government by the end of 2014.

This very informative but demanding programme was balanced by cultural activities such as a guided tour in Brussels, visits to the German National Museum of Contemporary History in Bonn and the Royal Army and Military Museum in Brussels. The tour of an AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) plane on the last day rounded off the seminar.

Not only was the information provided by the speakers of great interest to the group, but the numerous opportunities to ask questions helped to make this seminar invaluable. Thanks to the engagement and openness of all speakers, participants could show their interest and knowledge on the topics and this led to lively discussions. This seminar also provided the opportunity for further contact with speakers to gather more information about the different topics.

Overall this seminar was a very interesting and valuable experience and all participants gained a deep insight into the structures and organisations involved in European security policy. In this regard, the purpose of the seminar was thoroughly fulfilled, if not exceeded.

Yumi Igarashi

Day 1, July 17, 2011

Visit to the “House of the History of the Federal Republic of Germany”

Location: Willy-Brandt-Allee 14, 53113 Bonn

(Self-guided tour)

‘What is history, but a fable agreed upon?’ the French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, known as one of the greatest military commanders of all time once asked. But how do collective fables emerge, how do they vary over time and how are they kept sustainable? With these questions in mind, the German National Museum of Contemporary History (*Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*) in Bonn was the ideal starting point for our excursion to Brussels.

Located on the Museum Mile, it hosts exhibitions related to German history from 1945 until



the present. The exhibition is organised chronologically and covers many German issues, as well as the history of the divided nation and the integration of the two German states from both economic and military perspectives. While the political history of the Federal Republic of Germany and the former German Democratic Republic is the common thread of the permanent exhibition, the presentation of everyday and cultural history also offers an alternative view on Germany and this exhibition in particular caught the interest of our non-German group members. Interactive terminals, statistics and short films were used to collectively evaluate the knowledge of German history and to explore the German cosmos. Although the exhibition follows the widely known German narratives (‘economic miracle’, ‘détente politics’ and the famous ‘Wende’ slogan ‘We are one people’), different perspectives on historical

events are depicted and various opinions of witnesses are brought to light.

Remarkably, the exhibition also deals with the current political and social situation of Germany. Instead of ending with the German unification, the exhibition refers to the effects of globalization after 1990 and deals with the current socio-economic situation of German citizens, adolescence in times of internet pornography and facebook, as well as with the role of the German Bundeswehr (army) in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Back on the motorway to Eschweiler our first lesson was learned; Germany in 2011 has agreed on having a colourful, European mosaic of various pasts instead of sticking to a one-dimensional concept of national history.

Minutes by Torben Fischer; photo by Yumi Igarashi

Information Visit to the Technical School Land-Systems and Army School of Technique (TSL/FSHT)

Location: Donnerbergkaserne, Birkengangstraße 140, 52249 Eschweiler

Greeting and introduction to the programme

Speakers: Captain Andreas May, Captain Axel Kukuk, Dennis Aust



Captain Andreas May welcomed us at the Donnerbergkaserne (Donnerberg barracks) in Eschweiler, where we were to spend our first night. After a short introduction by the participants, Captain Axel Kukuk and Mr. Dennis Aust from the Armed Forces Office gave us an overview of their work and their expectations of the field trip.

Afterwards, Captain May explained the upcoming programme for the following day at the Donnerbergkaserne, as well as the area plan of the barracks and then he showed us to our accommodation.



In the evening, we visited the city of Aachen, escorted by Captain May. He offered us a short walking tour through the city centre of Aachen, showed us the main sights of the city, Aachen Cathedral and the city hall, and told us about the historical background of them, especially in relation to Charles the Great and King Otto I.



*Minutes by Yumi Igarashi;
Photos by Nicolai Rudac and Yumi Igarashi*

Day 2, July 18, 2011

Lecture and Discussion

Presentation of the tasks of the TSL/FSHT

“Transformation of the German Armed Forces and New Requirements for Equipment and Training”

Speaker: Colonel Günter Selbert, Deputy School Commander

The Technical School for Land Systems and Army Vocational School for Technical Education was established in 1963. The school fulfils the tasks of research and training with more than 146 different courses offered. In 2010, 4.588 students took part in the training courses. The school is run by 723 military and 136 civilian personnel. It provides training, not only for German, but also international military staff and there is a special training cooperation with the Dutch armed forces. The TSL/FSHT also provides personnel for the German Advisory Groups to Africa, which aim to help the armed forces and the police with non-weapon-based training.

Colonel Selbert gave a definition of logistics within the armed forces, with three keywords: maintenance, ordnance and transport. He defined land systems as the entire spectrum of weapon systems and equipment for land-based operations. The objectives of the Director are subdivided into three areas:



1. To ensure effective operational logistics: This is often done via telemaintenance, giving support during operations. The example of Afghanistan was given: there are not enough specialists on site for the maintenance of more than 100 different technical systems so help is given via satellite.

2. Provision of operational land systems: “Operational” in this case means that the land systems

have to be robust and need to have the basic design for (1) a reliable prognosis, (2) an exact diagnosis, (3) temporary emergency operation, (4) rapid access to spare parts, (5) qualified tests under field conditions, and (6) which can be repaired with little effort.

3. Provision of motivated and competent personnel: After basic technical training of two to three years, either military or civilian, the students are further trained at the school in Aachen. The trainees must then complete state exams. If students do not pass their exams, they have to leave the military.

*Minutes by Mathias Waldmeyer and Savannah Carr-Wilson;
Photos by Nicolai Rudac and Yumi Igarashi*

Lecture and Discussion

“Technical Equipment of the Army and Requirements for Deployments Abroad: Protected / Armed wheeled vehicles”

Speakers: Captain Andreas May, Captain Balla

Captain Balla started his lecture with an introduction, telling us about his position as an instructor of technical training on protected/armed wheeled vehicles. He then showed us a short film about the Dingo, an armoured vehicle which is used in international peacekeeping missions. It has cross-country capability, mine protection, 360 degree fire range with a machine-gun on top, a security cell, GPS navigation and a camera on the rear of the vehicle. It is used for conducting patrols and to transport soldiers. The Dingo I costs about € 500.000, the Dingo II & III about € 1.000.000. To answer a question, Captain Balla informed us that an aircraft can only transport one Dingo due to the weight of the vehicles. The base in Eschweiler is the only German training centre for technical education about this vehicle.



In the garage hall Captain Balla showed us five vehicles: a Dingo I & II, an Eagle 4, a Yak and a Mungo. The main difference between the Dingo I and II is what he termed the “mine-philosophy”. The mine protection on the Dingo I is close to the ground, so the pressure of the explosion is redirected to the sides. In the Dingo II the mine protection is located much higher from the ground. This allows the pressure of the explosion to use more space under the vehicle. Captain Balla described the Dingo as one of the most secure vehicles in the German military and it is also exported to other countries.



The Eagle 4 is constructed in cooperation with the Swiss and the US Americans and it is a patrol duty vehicle imported by the German army. The Yak is a Swiss product and intended for use as a police vehicle but can also be used for medical purposes. The Mungo is used in missions in which troops are dropped off by a helicopter. The Mungo offers protection against hand grenades and anti personal mines. It has capacity for 10 passengers and gives the opportunity to communicate with people outside of the vehicle because of the open construction. The Mungo was used successfully in the Congo in 2005.

Minutes by Lisa Acker; photos by Nicolai Rudac and Yumi Igarashi

Lecture and Discussion

The International Responsibility of Germany

“Experiences from the Deployment in the United Nations Missions in Sudan (UNMIS)”

Speaker: Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol) Uwe Brinkmann



After briefly introducing himself and the situation in Sudan, Lieutenant Colonel Brinkmann told us about his time as a UN-observer for the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) between February and August 2007.

The UNMIS is a civilian administered mission with its headquarters (HQ) in Khartoum and sector HQs mainly in the south of the country. Only two of the sectors are located north of the border declared in 1956. LtCol Brinkmann was stationed in Juba, in the south of Sudan. The task of an UN-observer at that time was to monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). This included withdrawing troops, monitoring troop movements, disarmament and showing UN-presence. All the observers are unarmed. This is regulated in Chapter VI of the UN Charter. However, the UN-observers have permission to protect themselves and civilians with military force, to prevent a situation similar to the events in Rwanda. This military force was provided in Juba by soldiers from Bangladesh. The observers are given two weeks training in medical skills, two weeks training in the vocabulary of UN-English and finally a three week period of field training. The observers do not receive logistical help, such as food or letters, from the UN during the deployment. Thirty UN-observers were located in the same section as LtCol Brinkmann. The observers underwent three weeks training in Khartoum, similar to the training in Germany.

Western countries generally send observers for a duration of six months. Other countries send observers for a whole year. The daily work included patrolling the area by car, foot or in a helicopter (when villages were located in isolated areas). LtCol Brinkmann and his colleagues conducted verifications, such as counting soldiers and weapons and documenting this information with photos. They profiled villages by examining the security situation, education opportunities and the supply of water and food. LtCol Brinkmann also mentioned that, aside from the conflict in the region between the north and the south, there were also numerous conflicts between tribes, many of which were related to cattle theft.

Minutes by Lisa Acker; photo by Yumi Igarashi

Lecture and Discussion

“Experiences of the German Armed Forces Deployment in ISAF (Afghanistan)”

Speaker: Sergeant Major (MSG) Matthias Funke

MSG Funke shared experiences he gained during his participation at the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan during February and July 2010. He was stationed in Fayzabad, in north-eastern Afghanistan and served as a mentor for command sergeants of the Afghan National Army.

The operational training MSG Funke received from the German Armed Forces in cooperation



with the US army consisted of several different modules. Besides basic medical training, MSG Funke and his fellow officers were given advanced training on the rules of engagement and “host nation orientation”, i.e. they were told of the customs and traditions of the “host nation”, Afghanistan. They also received training in the handling of specific weapons and battle drills were practised. The rationale behind these exercises was to familiarize the participants with situations they were likely to be confronted with in reality in Afghanistan. Special education was also provided in relation to the handling of improvised explosive devices (IED), which constitute a major security threat to the international coalition forces. In addition, MSG Funke had to attend a special 16 day training programme provided by the US army. It included further battle drills, specific counterinsurgency operations and lessons which

should prepare the participants for the task of mentoring Afghan army soldiers. The pre-deployment training took in total six to seven months.

In the second part of his presentation, MSG Funke provided us an overview of his daily life and work in the provincial reconstruction team in Fayzabad. He emphasised that the daily work took place in the field and not at a desk and the work load was quite heavy. The free time was spent at recreational activities, such as sport tournaments. MSG Funke also talked about the cultural specificities of Afghanistan which he learned during his stay. He stressed that especially through his work as a mentor for Afghan soldiers, he learned how important it is to always protect the “honour” of another person, i.e. not to offend or insult. He also mentioned that it was absolutely taboo to have contact with Afghan women and that in public life they are almost non-existent.

After the presentation, questions were asked regarding difficulties the international coalition forces have in identifying enemy combatants. MSG Funke responded that it was sometimes impossible to detect women wearing burkas; it is very hard to control them without violating local customs. When asked whether German army members also carry out house-to-house searches or are involved in combat, MSG Funke said that German soldiers are not involved in such operations. Instead those are carried out by US army members.

Minutes by Fereshta Sahrai and Mélanie Gerber; photo by Yumi Igarashi

City tour in Brussels: Brussels – Europe’s Capital? From a residential area to the bureaucratic desert

Location: Brussels city centre

Speaker: Valentin Thijs



We started our tour at the Place du Cinquantenaire, the location of an arcade which marks Belgium’s independence, attained in 1905. The city of Brussels comprises 19 communities and is therefore governed by 19 mayors. It has 200.000 inhabitants; 2 million people live in the region. While at the Place, we had the pleasure of seeing the Air Force’s preparations for the celebrations of the 21st July, Belgium’s national day.

Afterwards, we drove through the so-called European district or Ixelles, which was destroyed only once at the end of the 17th century by France. Thus we were able to see a few original buildings from the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods. Simultaneously, the tour guide told us about Belgium’s colonial past in the D.R. Congo, which became independent in 1960.



We passed the building of the Council of the European Union, which is also called the ‘Consilium’. About 30.000 EU *fonctionnaires* work at the European institutions and agencies. We saw the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission. We were told that some countries, such as Germany, hold three permanent representations (and therefore have three ambassadors) in Brussels: one for the NATO, one for the EU and the national embassy.

Brussels is divided into two parts: the uptown and the downtown. After visiting the European district, which is situated downtown, we visited Saint Michael’s cathedral, the city’s patron, in the uptown. The cathedral was built during the 13th century in late Gothic style and is famous for its painted windows, one of which represents the German conqueror Charles the Great.



Afterwards, we walked through the old part of town and visited the world’s oldest shopping gallery: Les Galeries Royales Saint Hubert. This beautiful passage is covered by the very first roof made exclusively of steel and glass.



*Minutes by Julia von Studzinski, Mariana Groba Gomez and Rebecca Maria Schmitz;
Photos by Nicolai Rudac and Yumi Igarashi*

Day 3, July 19, 2011

Information Visit to the European Commission

Location: Rue Van Maerlant 18, B-1040 Brussels

Presentation and Discussion

“Transformation of European Institutions – Mission and Function”

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Ralf von Ameln, member of the external speaker team

The concept of a unified Europe emerged in the 20th century. EU treaties were based on democratic cooperation and built upon legislation already in place in the region. The original European economic community of 6 member states has gradually grown into the European Union, which currently counts 27 member states. The accession process is ongoing. There are currently 3 candidate countries, Croatia, Turkey and Iceland, negotiating to become EU members. Country accession to the EU is influenced by issues of a political and economic nature. Whereas Norway does not want to join for pragmatic reasons, Switzerland wants to follow its own rule. Prof. Von Ameln also stated that there is no possibility that Serbia joins the EU at the moment.



The European Council has 10 configurations: general affairs; foreign affairs; economic and financial affairs; justice and home affairs; employment and social policy; health and consumer protection; competitiveness (internal market, industry and research); transport, telecommunications and energy; agriculture and fisheries; environment; education, youth and culture. After the Lisbon Treaty (2009), the Council Presidency was introduced. The EU's 27 member states alternate in chairing the Council for a period of 6 months. The Presidency oversees meetings at every level, proposes guidelines and draws up the compromises needed for the Council to take decisions.



The Commission, the Council and the Parliament are the main bodies of the EU and cooperate with one another. The Commission consults, proposes and controls, whereas the Council and the Parliament work as legislative bodies. The Economic and Social Committee as well as the Committee of Regions are involved on a different level.



Prof. Von Ameln concluded his presentation with a few remarks. He stated that the concept of a unified Europe is necessary and that Europe is a dynamic process, constantly moving further. He also stated that criticism and suggestions regarding the EU's actions and behavior are welcome, but not regarding its target and will.

Minutes by Ram Kumar Bhandari and Savannah Carr-Wilson; photos by Yumi Igarashi

Presentation and Discussion

“The Role of the Council of the European Union with Regard to the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)”

Speaker: Kyriakos Revelas, department “Security Policy”

Mr. Kyriakos Revelas began his presentation by explaining that the European Community (EC) played a crucial role as a stabilising, peace-building actor especially during the Cold War period, marked by the bipolar ideological confrontation and the ‘security dilemma’. After the Cold War period, the European Union (EU) was established through the 1993 Maastricht Treaty. The EU as a global security actor has adapted its policies and framework to respond to new threats. The EU’s role as a security actor was implicitly defined in the



second pillar of the Union, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) on the basis of intergovernmental cooperation. The ESDP was created in 1999, focusing particularly on crisis management.

In 2003, the European Security Strategy (ESS) was developed, addressing the EU’s stance on security matters. The aim was to prepare the European response to new threats, such as international terrorism, proliferation, weapons of mass destruction and regional conflicts. In the framework of the ESS, it has been recognised that these new threats are not purely military and can therefore not be tackled with military means only. The EU has thus acknowledged the link between security and development. There are several economic instruments and policies which highlight this nexus. It has furthermore developed a security approach based on democratisation and a human rights dialogue.



The Lisbon Treaty posed new challenges to the EU: the establishment of a European External Service allows Europe to speak with one voice creating the so called Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). This posed new actions towards security areas: new crisis management tasks; a solidarity clause; and the creation of the European Defence Agency (EDA) and permanent structures for military cooperation. Through the Lisbon Treaty, the pillar structure of the EU was dissolved.

Mr. Revelas answered the question about the relationship between the EU and the OSCE stating that the EU has more to offer than the OSCE, as it is including new countries, particularly from Eastern Europe, through its enlargement process. Concerning the EU’s intelligence capabilities, Mr. Revelas clarified that EU does not have its own intelligence service and that, instead, information is collected through open sources and diplomatic channels. To Mr. Revelas EU army is possible in the future; however there has been a lack of political will.

*Minutes by Isabel Sophia Lopes Antunes and Matti Inkeroinen;
Photos by Nicolai Rudac and Yumi Igarashi*

Presentation and Discussion

“EU Neighbourhood Policy: recent developments”



Speaker: Saturnino Munoz Gomez, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Mr. Saturnino Munoz Gomes started his presentation by describing the EU’s neighbourhood regions in the East and South. The objective in the partnership with the East is to mobilise the region and to engage states in cooperation. The main focus of the southern (Mediterranean) partnership, on the other hand, is institution-building, with a view to increase democracy and prosperity. These objectives rely on strong political guidance and funding (grants and loans). Not all nations (for instance Libya or Algeria) are interested in strengthening political and economic ties with the EU, particularly since such connections are already in place with other players, such as the US and China.

An in-depth review of the EU neighbourhood policy (ENP) was carried out in July 2010, aiming to improve it based on the joint proposals by the Commission and the High Representative. The main underlying principle of the partnership is to promote deep and sustainable democracy, based on mutual accountability (more clarity about respective commitments), differentiation (adaptation to specific circumstances), and conditionality (or ‘more and more’, in the speaker’s words). The ENP aims to support the states’ commitment to building democratic societies, to promote inclusive economical development, to strengthen the two regional dimensions of the ENP (south and east) and to provide the mechanisms and resources to deliver those objectives.

The EU is committed to strengthening security sector reform and the fight against corruption as well as to participate in the resolution of long lasting conflicts. Further key aspects of the partnership include civil society, human rights dialogue, media freedom, and supporting a sustainable socio-economic development. This can be achieved, for instance, by strengthening economical ties, enhancing sector cooperation and facilitating mobility and contact between EU citizens and partnership countries (i.e. EU visa code).



Towards the EU’s Neighbourhood policy Mr. Gomez agrees that the EU has some limitation to improve further reforms as other big players such as China are competing in the same regions. The EU in his view should focus more on bilateral action plans with the countries and improve on civil society than having any other imperialistic ideals in its foreign policy.

Minutes by Isabel Sophia Lopes Antunes and Matti Inkeroinen; photos by Yumi Igarashi

Information Visit to the Council of the European Union

Location: Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 175, B-1048 Brussels

Lecture and Discussion

“The Common Security and Defence Policy and the military structures of the EU”

Speaker: Lieutenant Colonel (General Staff) (GS) Andreas Schreiber, Action Officer Host Nation Support, EEAS



LTC (GS) Andreas Schreiber began by presenting the development of the Common Security and Defense Policy, formerly called European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), before explaining the structural changes to the military dimension of the Council following the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009.

LTC Schreiber identified four milestones in the development of the ESDP. The Treaty of Amsterdam in 1999 marked the beginning of the ESDP by creating the position of the EU High Representative of European Foreign Policy. It also identified the tasks of the EU which, at first, focused primarily on humanitarian issues. The Treaty of Nice of 2002 amended the Amsterdam Treaty by expanding these tasks. In 2003, the European Security Strategy (ESS), issued by Javier Solana, determined five key threats to the European Union: the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, regional conflicts, failed states and organized crime. The ESS further established the comprehensive approach (civilian and military means) and the various European funds to help ‘secure’ Europe. The Treaty of Lisbon later introduced the High Representative of the Union of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy as well as a full-time President of the European Council. The European External Action Service (EEAS) represents a further major change to the CSDP.

LTC Schreiber briefly described the tasks of the Political and Security Committee (PSC), which meets at Ambassadorial level and prepares a comprehensive EU response to crisis situations. The PSC has the main political control over the CSDP and its missions. The EU Military Committee meeting of the member states’ Chiefs of Defence gives advice and makes recommendations on all military matters to the PSC. He further informed us that these missions can range from early warning to situation assessments to strategic planning. The EU has recently created the EU Battle Group Concept. The idea behind it is to have a standby European military force that could rapidly intervene in crisis situations. It would mainly draw on military personnel from the member states. This group would be prepared to deploy in five to ten days and extend operations to up to 30 days. However, this concept has not yet been used in practice given that the group’s deployment is contingent upon political will.



*Minutes by Julia von Studzinski, Mariana Groba Gomez and Rebecca Maria Schmitz;
Photos by Yumi Igarashi*

Day 4, July 20, 2011

Information Visit to NATO Headquarter

Location: 39 Blvd Leopold III, B-1110 Brussels

Lecture and Discussion

“German Delegation at NATO, New Strategic Concept”

Speaker: Lieutenant Colonel Carsten Köpper

In 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded. The foundation of NATO changed the geopolitical and security balance in the transatlantic region. The role of NATO in those times, according to Baron Ismay – first NATO Secretary General – was: “to keep the Americans in; to keep the Russians out; and to keep the Germans down.”



However through decades of its history, due to new global security challenges, risks, and threats (including proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, energy security, piracy, regional conflicts, illegal migration, epidemics and pandemics, access to resources, climate change etc.) NATO has undergone essential transformations. Today, the main commitment of NATO is expressed in Art. 5 of the Treaty, namely, a commitment to collective defence among the member states. Thus, according to Art. 5, any “armed attack against one state [...] shall be considered an attack against them all...”

NATO has a specific structure, being composed of political and military representatives. Thus, NATO’s Military Command Structure consists of several levels: political, strategic, operational, and tactical level.

To deal with security challenges, taking into consideration the great variety of member states, different visions and security priorities, a great deal of consensus and compromise is needed. Allies commit themselves to work together. The spirit of compromise seems to be essential. Thus, a battle rhythm can be depicted schematically: Recommendations; Report; Topic; National positions / Negotiations; and Harmonized Guidance.

Having committed themselves to consensus and compromise, as well as dealing with security challenges with a global character; NATO seeks cooperation with other non-NATO states. In this respect, unfortunately each state still goes its own way: cooperation on international security issues is not easy. Nevertheless this is a goal worth aspiring to.

Minutes by Anna-Karina Bayer and Nicolai Rudac; photo by Yumi Igarashi

Lecture and Discussion

“German Operations in Afghanistan”

Speaker: Eckart Blaurock (Legation Councillor I. Class, First Secretary)

Mr. Blaurock gave a short overview of the conflict in Afghanistan. Identifying the attacks of 9/11 as the starting point of the US-led intervention, he pointed out that part of the motivation for the US was the fact that the Taliban harboured Osama Bin Laden and other Al Qaeda members, the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks. He also spoke about the step by step extension of the NATO operation through the country since 2003.



An important policy development took place in 2010 based on the declaration of President Karzai to take over responsibility for security in Afghanistan after 2014. Furthermore, Mr. Blaurock said that a transition process has been launched and will be discussed on the 5th of December this year at the NATO conference in Bonn. A strategy that will go beyond 2014 will also be discussed. The Afghan government will be supported in setting up a reconciliation process. The conditions requiring the Taliban to stop violence and to comply with the government are still the same: The constitution, especially in regards to human rights should be accepted; a clear separation from terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda, and an end to the violence, as well as the insurgency should also be aimed for.

Mr. Blaurock was optimistic regarding the capability of the Afghan National Forces to provide security. A question was raised regarding this optimism as he mentioned the deteriorating security situation in the country. He answered this by drawing attention to the increasing number of Afghan Forces and said that 25% of the operations are led by the Afghan National Police (ANP) and the Afghan National Army (ANA) alone. No specific information regarding the quality of these forces was detailed, besides the personal opinion of Mr. Blaurock believing in their ability.

Several further questions regarding the legitimacy of the Afghan government and widespread corruption in the security sector, as well as regarding the firm position of the Taliban not to negotiate before a complete withdrawal of international troops followed. However after quite unsatisfying answers to these questions, the discussion was stopped. In general, the NATO strategy and procedure in Afghanistan can be summarised as one built on belief in its own power, often followed by failure instead of progress measured by real security outputs and conflict dynamics. Taking into consideration Afghan history and social structure, this approach might very likely have huge impacts on the security situation inside Afghanistan, in terms of a civil war, as well as vast transnational consequences.

Minutes by Fereshta Sahrai and Mélanie Gerber; photo by Yumi Igarashi

Information Visit to the European Parliament

Location: Rue Wiertz / Rue Remorquer, B-1040 Brussels

Guided Tour, Lecture and Discussion

“The Underestimated Parliament: Role and Status of the European Parliament”

Speakers: Stefan Schulz, Ulrich Karock



The tour through the European Parliament and the introduction talk were led by Stefan Schulz. The European Parliament is one of the three political authorities of the European Union. It is the parliamentary body and has 736 members coming from the 27 Member States of the EU. The distribution of seats is proportional to the size of a country; however it is not proportional to the number of citizens. Germany as the biggest country has

99 seats in the parliament while Malta has only five.

In addition to seats for all members of parliament, the plenary hall also accommodates 23 translation booths, one for every official EU language. There are no national delegations to the parliament but political groups which are seated according to their political position (left-right spec-



trum). Coalitions in the parliament are generally unstable. Therefore majorities often have to be sought throughout the whole spectrum of parties. The European Parliament works from three different locations: Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg. Twelve plenary sessions are held per year in Strasbourg, the other sessions plus committee meetings – there are 20 standing committees in the parliament – take place in Brussels.



In the general discussion about the European

Parliament following topics were raised:

1. the standing committees and how members are chosen,
2. the monthly work cycle of the parliament, which consists of a preparation week, the plenary session week and weeks for committee work and external political activities,
3. the control of lobbying in the EU, and
4. the distribution of speaking time during plenary sessions.



Especially the discussion about the distribution of speaking time was lively. The distribution based on the number of seats by a fraction was criticized by many participants as unfair. Mr. Schulz replied that in the last years, in many sessions the aforementioned old model of distribution of speaking time had been supplanted by “free-for-all” sessions.



In the second part of the session, Ulrich Karock of the European Parliament held a talk on the common security and defence policy (CSDP). CSDP is a relatively new objective of the European Union and was placed on the EU’s agenda by the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. At the moment, common security and defence is only discussed in a sub-committee of the Foreign Affairs Committee but, as the work of the European Parliament is constantly evolving, this might change in the future. The growing influence of the European Parliament in CSDP can already be seen, as the high representative for foreign affairs and security policy of the EU is obligated by Article 36 of the treaty to confirm security and defence issues with the parliament.

*Minutes by Daniel Kulms and Krisitan Kouros;
Photos by Yumi Igarashi*



Day 5, July 21, 2011

Visit to the Royal Army and Military Museum (without guide)

“The Self-Conception of Our Neighbours with Regard to Their Political Past and the Conflicts in Europe”

Location: Parc du Cinquantenaire 3, B-1000 Brussels



The 21st of July is a national holiday in Belgium and commemorates the day on which Leopold I took the constitutional oath as the first King of Belgium in 1831.

The group started the day with a visit of the Royal Army and Military Museum in Brussels. It presents more than 10 centuries

of military technological history.



The museum exhibits the evolution of military equipment and the influence of civil fashion on military clothing. The collections range from suits of armour to valuable firearms, to master-crafted swords and equipment used at sea.



Two halls contained armoured vehicles and aeroplanes. A gallery was also dedicated to Russian military uniforms and treasures.



Minutes by Anna-Karina Bayer and Nicolai Rudac; photos by Yumi Igarashi

Information Visit to NATO-Joint Force Command in Brunssum

Location: Rimbungerweg 30, Brunssum

After a two hour bus ride to Brunssum, the group was welcomed at the NATO Joint Forces Command Head Quarter by Section Head of Media Relations Lt Col Jan van Helvert who gave the group a short tour through the base. After lunch at the Alliance Restaurant, the group was given three briefings.



Briefing and Discussion

“Structure, Role and Mission in Particular ISAF”

Speaker: Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Drs. Jan van Helvert

The Joint Force Command (JFC) in Brunssum is one of three operational level commands in NATO Allied Command Operations and links the strategic and tactical levels of NATO operations. The JFC HQ Brunssum commands, supports and facilitates NATO mission planning. Tasks include the Afghanistan mission ISAF, Baltic Air Policing, Military Cooperation, NATO Response Force and Operational Contingency Planning. Furthermore NATO has often provided help during civilian crises such as hurricane Katrina in New Orleans 2005 and the severe flooding in Pakistan 2010, and is prepared to carry out this task in the future if asked by a country.



Close to 600 people work on the base, of which 498 belong to the military and 92 are NATO civilian staff. 24 of 28 NATO member countries are present in Brunssum, the largest presence being Germany and the United States of America. The current commander of the base is the German four-star general Wolf Langheld who is also the commander of the ISAF mission. The JFC HQ is normally in direct contact with the ISAF HQ in Kabul, which carries out the “daily work” of the ISAF mission.

After the presentation by Lt Col van Helvert, a very lively discussion on the ISAF mission took place, centred around NATO’s current plan to withdraw all troops by the end of 2014 and handing over the responsibility to the Afghan National Army and Afghan Police step-by-step. Doubts were articulated about whether it is feasible that Afghanistan will be stable within this time frame. Lt Col van Helvert reiterated that the ISAF headquarters in Kabul is dedicated to training Afghan forces and Afghan police in order to enable them to fully take over the job from NATO and provide security.



*Minutes by Daniel Kulms and Kristian Kouros;
Photos by Nicolai Rudac and Yumi Igarashi*

Briefing and Discussion “Military Cooperation and Outreach Programme”

Speaker: Lieutenant Colonel Salvatore Russo

The second session related to the military-to-military relations NATO fosters with other nations and regions. The new NATO Strategic Concept frames partnership as an important contribution to security and calls for an engagement by all countries. Since April 2011, NATO has a new Partnership Policy in place which emphasises consultations and co-operation in counter terrorism. For most other nations, NATO-Partnership is seen as precursor for NATO membership.



Currently, there are three main partnership programs: the Istanbul Cooperation, the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Partnership for Peace programmes. In addition to that, NATO has special relations with Russia, Ukraine and Georgia on a strategic level. Military cooperation areas assigned to the JFC HQ Brunssum are Western Europe, south Caucasus and Central Asia.



*Minutes by Daniel Kulms and Kristian Kouros;
Photos by Nicolai Rudac and Yumi Igarashi*

Closing Remarks and Discussion

Speaker: Martin de Sitter, Political Advisor

Mr. de Sitter works at the JFC HQ as the political advisor to the Commander General Wolf Langheld. After a short introduction, Mr. de Sitter directly gave the floor to the audience for questions. Topics discussed for the next 45 minutes were NATO relations with other countries, especially Russia, the origin and goal of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan and the assassination of Osama Bin Laden. Ethical aspects of the assassination and the question of whether he should have been arrested and brought to trial were discussed.



*Minutes by Daniel Kulms and Kristian Kouros;
Photo by Nicolai Rudac*

Day 6, July 22, 2011

Information visit to NATO E-3A Alliance (AWACS)

Location: Lilienthalallee 100, 52511 Geilenkirchen

Briefing and tour

“The Eyes of NATO – Information Visit to the NATO E-3A Alliance (AWACS)”

Speakers: Captain Peter Verlande, electronic warfare/press officer
Sergeant Major Cohnen



The visit to the E-3A Component at the NATO Air Base in Geilenkirchen consisted of a lecture on the role of the E-3A Component within NATO and a guided tour through one of the AWACS aircrafts. Captain Peter Verlande gave an introduction of the basic facts and figures of the NATO E-3A Alliance as well as a comprehensive overview of the missions of the Component. The E-3A Component is NATO's first integrated, multi-national flying unit, providing rapid deployability, airborne surveillance, command, control and communication for NATO operations. Seventeen of NATO's member states contribute to the E-3A program and 2.900 military and civilian personnel are stationed at the Geilenkirchen Air Base.

One may wonder why Geilenkirchen was chosen to host this multi-national flying unit, a question which Captain Verlande was happy to answer. Because of the growing threat of the Warsaw Pact countries, NATO decided to develop a flying surveillance unit in order to secure the performance of its early warning system. The E-3A Programme was authorised in December 1978. Geilenkirchen was only coincidentally chosen as the site for the Air Base, since the Air Base was initially set to be located in the south of the Netherlands. The predicted time-frame to establish a full functioning Air Base, however, did not meet NATO's schedule and the authorities thus decided on Geilenkirchen. Situated close to the Dutch border as well as to Brussels, Cologne and Frankfurt, Geilenkirchen allowed the running of immediate communication procedures and the implementation of fast operations. Nowadays, the Component operates not only in Geilenkirchen, but also in four other Forward Operating Bases: Trapani (Italy), Konya (Turkey), Aktion (Greece) and Ørland (Norway).

Seventeen E-3A AWACS aircrafts and three Trainer Cargo Aircrafts are assigned to the Component.





As explained by Captain Verlande with regard to financing, most of the aircrafts are about 25 years old and their maintenance is expensive. Politicians in the member countries, however, are unwilling to renew the aircrafts, due to the high cost (70 million US dollars) and because this particular Boeing 707 model is no longer produced. Contrary to other Components, the Geilenkirchen Air Base is financed solely through the NATO budget and therefore the aircrafts are the property of NATO. Germany and

the USA are, nevertheless, the biggest contributors in terms of financing and personnel (about 60%).

Captain Verlande subsequently described the technical facts of the AWACS missions. An AWACS crew consists of 16 members, divided into the Flight Crew and the Mission Crew. The radar coverage of one E-3A flying reaches over 400.000 km. By establishing overlapping orbits with three AWACS aircrafts, it is thus possible to cover the whole of Central Europe. Furthermore, an E-3A can detect low flying targets within 400 km and medium targets within 520 km. The main tasks of the E-3A Component encompass surveillance, anti-air warfare, naval operations support, support in offensive counter air missions and additional tasks (e.g. civil missions). In addition, the Component is an important base for training and instruction on AWACS aircrafts. The employment of the AWACS Component includes a wide range of different scenarios. Apart from their core missions in the First Gulf War, Kosovo, Afghanistan or Libya, AWACS were used during various international summits, the Olympic Games as well as during the 2006 World Cup in Germany. Although 17 nations are part of the Component, not all members participate in all missions.



Germany, for instance, does not take part in the Operation Unified Protector mission in Libya, yet contributes to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.



After the briefing, Captain Verlande and Sergeant Major Cohnen illustrated the information provided with a guided tour of a real-life E-3A aircraft.

*Minutes by Ram Kumar Bhandari and Torben Fischer;
Photos by Nicolai Rudac and Yumi Igarashi*