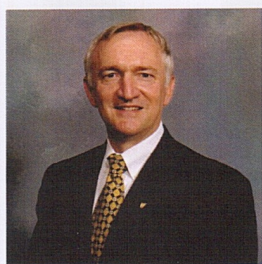




EDITORIAL



Steven BERNETT

Multinational Logistics at Work

Mr Steven Bernett joined NAMSA as Director Logistics Programmes & Operations in the spring of 2010, following four years as Program Director for the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) Logistics Center and has held various high-level positions in the US Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), as a Senior Executive.

I am thoroughly grateful for the opportunity to convey my thoughts and experiences to the NOBA community.

Based on my experiences as a logistician in former management positions during my US career, I expected my joining NAMSA would bring no major changes in my management approach.

I strongly believed that after having worked in the US, which is the "melting pot of nations", I was well prepared to translate those attributes easily into successful interaction and good communication with the multitude and diversity of NATO military and civil partners that NAMSA is supporting.

I could not have been more wrong. The more than 50 years of NAMSA history and tradition, blended with 28 different national cultures, greatly influence day-to-day business to a degree I never imagined.

I have observed the subtle European approach to problem solving and searching for viable solutions and appreciate it greatly. I have been inspired by the spirit of cooperation (a legacy certainly left by the former staff members) and the talented

people in our midst today. Indeed, there is a clear commitment to excellence and professionalism that would be the envy of any similar organization.

During my working day, I have seen the tremendous opportunities and challenges drawing from NAMSA's broad portfolio of traditional logistics support. This support provided through well established partnerships and cooperative programmes, as well as the operational support provided directly to the NATO troops in theatre, have translated into a demanding constant of my current life in Luxembourg.

That said, we do have challenges. International funding pressures on all NAMSA customers mean that they have high expectations concerning time and price while not accepting lower quality products or services.

In this respect the old saying that "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link" has real meaning. We must continue to work together and not lose any of the great qualities I have mentioned as NATO Agencies Reform will test NAMSA's unity and integrity. I am confident that the logistics community, along with others in the chain: procurement,

finance, resources and support, will work together to ensure our continued success.

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Committee

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Before writing the detailed minutes, here is a brief statement on the meeting. After two hours of work, there was a drink followed by a good lunch, the «old» staff met in a joyful atmosphere. All the items that were on the agenda were very interesting not only because of the competence of the Hosts but also because of the real value of the debated topics : Salaries, Reform, Pension Funds, life of the Association etc...The 73 attendees will certainly not forget. Detailed informations on these issues will be provided in the minutes. You are herewith already invited for next year's meeting. The more we are represented, the more we will weigh on future events, at least it is our wish.

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News

CONFEDERATION OF NATO CIVILIAN STAFF COMMITTEES

Following the example of NATO Retired Staff Associations, the Liaison Committee of NATO Civilian Staff Associations has just adopted the title "Confederation". Let us take this opportunity to talk about our active colleagues and their work.

This Confederation is represented by a Committee of about thirty members elected by each of the Civilian Staff associations installed in Agencies and NATO Commands. The committee is lead by a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary. As is our Confederation, it is recognised by NATO authorities and by the Civilian Personnel Regulations. The Committee is the link between the Secretary General and his staff and the staff of (Headquarters and local) commands and Agencies. The Committee meets three times a year, in NATO sites and at the Headquarters in Evre. Our Confederation is present at these meetings through a representative/observer who has the right to speak.

All Committee members are volunteers. Their home body takes on, more or less, their expenses, notably for Confederation-related travel.

The Committee's duties are: to

defend the professional interests of Organisation staff, to formulate proposals pertaining to the collective benefit or to working conditions, to express its opinion on all matters submitted by the competent authorities, to represent the NATO staff's point of view notably in the Joint Consultative Board.

On many subjects the interests of the two Confederations coincide; such as the scales and rates of pay, good management of the group insurance contract, the provident fund, the coordinated pension scheme, the defined contribution pension scheme, the retirees' medical insurance fund, the joint Consultative Board, the rules governing complaints and appeals, and so on. That is to say we are very close. At the time when NATO is committed to profound reform through important changes to the measures contained in the CPR, through the relocation and closure of agencies and by the final closure of Regional Commands, staff anxiety is high. The Confederation sees an increase in its workload whilst its resources remain insufficient. However it commits itself with energy and dynamism to protect the interests and rights of those of our younger colleagues under the threat of contract termination or an unwanted transfer. On the other hand it strives to provide its opinion and to submit

proposals for the protection of staff in preserving the future of the Organisation.

All the members of the Committees spare neither their time nor their efforts so that, in these difficult times, staff members do not find themselves isolated, deprived or defenceless before the events and difficulties with which they are, or could be, confronted.

Let us unite, both active and retired staff, to make our voices heard by the Secretary General and our nations, through our respective Confederations. It is our right and our duty.

TRIP TO BEAUNE

Eight of our Association's members had responded positively to this Committee initiative. Having left NAMSA in a minibus on the morning of 10 May we arrived, in magnificent sunshine, in Beaune around 13h00.

This trip was organised around three dominant themes: culture, gastronomy and oenology with friendship and good humour as common denominators. We rapidly checked into a charming hotel situated right in the centre of town.

Then we walked around the town in the company of a guide who led us to discover the very rich history of this beautiful town.

After a cocktail at the Titren art gallery, well-known in Beaune, we went together to dine at a typical burgundy restaurant with a warm atmosphere.

The following morning, we were received at the chateau de Meursault to visit the wine cellars and to taste fine wines. After a rustic lunch we met at the "Hospices de Beaune" ("Hotel Dieu") where a captivating and knowledgeable guide awaited us. She led us to discover this architecturally splendid complex and its fascinating history. In the evening: dinner at "Loiseau des Vignes", Beaune's only starred restaurant, where a special menu had been concocted for us - a memorable moment.

The following morning, before the

return to Luxembourg and under the guidance of our friend Tim Crosby, we went to La Rochepot to visit the wine cellars of a wine-grower friend of his. After three days spent together in a friendly and comradely atmosphere we returned to the roost, determined to repeat this very successful experience in discovering other regions....



We are planning on the Loire valley (Vendome, Blois, Chambord, Amboise, Clos Lucé...), its culture, its châteaux, its vineyards... for 3 or 4 days, during the week from 23 to 27 April 2012. The

programme will be sent by email, or by post for those who so request.

THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR WISHES

NATO's ambitious reform plan gathered momentum this year. The main axes are known, harsh measures are being put in place, at the same time work on the construction of the new Headquarters building progresses: a symbol of the future NATO. We participate in this project in our area with our resources and our experience. My wishes for 2012 are addressed first to our Organization so that it goes forward in this Renaissance with courage and to the satisfaction of our nations, while assuring its obligations to its personnel. Then, to you and your families, under the cloak of protection and confidence that we continue to give to our Organization. Finally to members of our Committee, dedicated and loyal volunteers, who work with talent and drive for our Association to represent you with substance and effectiveness. I warmly wish you all a very happy New Year in 2012.

Olivier Guidetti

Mail

Thank you to all those who sent us their new e-mail address. For those of you who have not yet responded may I request that you do so promptly so that we can communicate rapidly with you?

Thank you to all our members who expressed their support, particularly at the time of our "Escapade to BEAUNE". Our thanks go to Peter Markey, Gary Sager and to all the others who wrote to thank us and to encourage us in pursuing the organisation of this type of event.

Arrivals - Departures

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

Mr Colin Alex (27/07/2011)
Mr Sadettin Genel (25/07/2011)
Mr Neso Guy (26/04/2011)
Mr Seleck Jean-Marie (31/03/2011)
Mr Erpelding Jean-Marie (14/03/2011)
Mr Sigwarth Michel (03/09/2011)
Mr Dechamps Benoit (30/09/2011)
MrCarius Kurt (27/10/2011)

We are happy to have them with us and we welcome them.

DECEASE:

We have learned that during the year 2010 our comrade
Mrs Linosa Aurélia (23/04/2011)
(Conjointe / Spouse)
Mr Maugrion Robert (30/04/2011)
Mr Haller Robert (28/06/2011)
Mr Calcagno Riccardo (29/06/2011)
Mr Dhyvert René (19/08/2011)
Mrs Guern Le Moulte Lucienne (23/08/2011)
Mrs Corneloup Denise (09/10/2011)
Mr Pedersen Leif (06/10/2011)
Mr Bucci Antonio (18/09/2011)
passed away.

FOUR DAY TRIP TO THE LOIRE VALLEY

Following the Beaune trip in May 2011, your committee proposes discovery, or rediscovery, in April 2012 of the Loire valley and its châteaux (Blois, Chambord, Amboise, and the Clos Lucé, where Leonardo da Vinci lived).

The trip will take place on 23, 24, 25 and 26 April 2012.

Sign up quickly before 15 January 2012 so that we may reserve hotel rooms. Indeed this period is that of the Easter school holidays for some French regions.

Here is the programme and price for a group of 10 to 20 people:

- Monday 23 April

Morning: Leave Luxembourg

Afternoon: Arrival at Blois

- Hotel (2*) "Anne de Bretagne", opposite the Château de Blois: 3 nights (breakfast included) at € 60.- per person i.e. € 180.- for the stay,
Since the number of rooms is limited we must reserve soon.

Evening: Dinner in Blois or in Vendôme (~ € 30.-)

- Tuesday 24 April

Morning: Guided visit of Blois Château and the town

Afternoon: Guided visit of the Château de Chambord

Evening: Dinner at a small restaurant "le Bistrot de Léonard" (~ € 30.-)
Possibility to watch the Son et Lumière at the Château de Blois (~ € 10.-)

- Wednesday 25 April

Morning: Guided visit of the Château de Blois and the town

Afternoon: Guided visit of the Clos Lucé

Evening: Gala dinner at "l'Orangerie du Château de Blois" (~ € 65.-, wine and coffee included).

- Thursday 26 April

Morning: Return to Luxembourg

Estimated cost (including transport, midday meals not included), based on a group of 10 people: ~ € 500.- per person

For those who would like to, there is the possibility of dining at midday on 25 April in an idyllic setting at the "Domaines des hauts de Loire" (2* Michelin)

.....
Reservation : to be returned to saudrais@pt.lu

Name:

Number of participants:

Number of rooms:

Reservation Deposit: € 180.- (since I must reserve the hotel...),

Remainder 1 week before departure.

BCEE: LU05 0019 1000 4987 3000, purpose: Blois 2012