



EDITORIAL



Michael J. LYDEN
General manager NATO Support Agency

Mr Mike Lyden assumed his role as General Manager on 1 July 2012 with the stand-up of the new NATO Support Agency. Mr Lyden comes with a wealth of logistics experience in both staff and command positions in the United States Navy Supply Corps, from which he retired as a Rear Admiral after 32 years of service.

I am truly honoured, and it is with great pleasure that I provide the editorial for the NOBA ECHO, the periodical magazine of the NAMS Old Boys Association. I value the association in bringing into closer union and friendship all the former staff members of NAMS, as well as fostering and perpetuating your interest and connection with your «Alma Mater». I also stand by to assist the Old Boys in any way within the powers of your Association. In my initial contacts with the NOBA Chairman, and having had the chance to address the General Assembly in early November, I have indeed understood your deep and continued interest in the Agency that you have served so many years; an organization that recently has come to a crossroads as it is developing into a new, stronger organization, namely the NATO Support Agency, which I have the privilege to be its General Manager.

If we go back to 2006, as the North Atlantic Council launched a programme to follow-on from the initial NATO Agencies Review tasked at the 2002 Prague Summit; the programme identified a need for further improvements in the working of NATO Agencies. Because of the financial crisis, operational demands and under the leadership of the current Secretary General, the nations' level of ambition of the Agency Review process grew, and at the meeting of NATO Defence Ministers on 10-11 June 2010, the Secretary General presented his views on the reform, underlining the need to take the financial and operational challenges as an opportunity to make NATO fit for purpose in the 21st century. The Secretary General noted that the Agencies fall, with minor exceptions, into three programmatic areas: procurement, support, and

communications & information, and suggested building the new structure around them. He underscored the goals of this initiative: maximum effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of capabilities and services, maximum sharing of support services, improved governance by enhancing transparency and accountability to Council, greater synergy between similar functions, and savings. And so NATO embarked on an effort reforming the Agencies landscape in NATO, pursuing the objectives of effectiveness, efficiency and savings, getting us ready to address future fiscal austerity, while preserving capability. In essence, the effort is about developing and delivering our capabilities and services in the most efficient and cost effective manner, and to the extent we can, obtaining savings that the Nations can reinvest in new capabilities to help keep NATO strong into the future.

NATO recently embraced the concept of Smart Defence, a new way of thinking about generating these modern defence capabilities in the coming decade and beyond. It involves pooling and sharing capabilities, setting priorities and coordinating efforts better.

The NATO Support Agency (NSPA) will be a key enabler in NATO's "Smart Defence" framework. We call our vision "Smart Support". Simply put, we intend to combine NATO's existing logistics and procurement support activities into a single organization that fully leverages current capabilities and builds on them to provide integrated support solutions based on best practices for Smart Defence, evolving capabilities and future NATO operations at a lower cost to NATO Nations. In short, we want to be NATO's premier integrated

logistics and services provider team! There are three specific objectives behind the reorganization. They are increasing efficiency, cost savings, and effectiveness.

I used the term "Smart Support" to associate ourselves with NATO's future and show our relevance there. I think that the NATO Support Agency can be a key enabler for NATO in its future missions. When I talked to the Military Committee I told them: "If you really believe that much in what these people do and you are that satisfied with them, any time in the future when you hear somebody talking about a weapon system, a mission, a capability, I want you to ask: "Have we talked to the Support Agency? Have we brought the Support Agency in?". I want the Support Agency to be synonymous with planning for any future NATO capability.

Since the establishment of the new Agency on 1 July 2012, we have been very active, consolidating all resources under one leadership, planning harmonization and rationalization, aiming at our initial targets as defined by the nations. Again, it is a big task but with the talented team that the new Agency brings together, and their track record of accomplishment, I am confident that we can rise to the challenge.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Elsewhere you will read with interest the official record of the Annual General Meeting.

Let us dwell here on another view of this event which is important to all of us.

The Robert W Zweerts Conference Centre assembled more than 70 of us. For our comfort we had the benefit of simultaneous interpretation. Spouses were reunited with their other halves for the aperitif and the



lunch, in the Agency's restaurant. This year the buffet was particularly appreciated, several starters, cold meats, fish, salads, two main dishes, with their side dishes, a choice of cheeses and desserts, red and white wines, coffee.

Coming back to ten o'clock in the morning, Mr LYDEN, our new General Manager, arrived ten minutes before the Chairman called the meeting to order. He was therefore able to mix with members he had met only through their

Committee representatives. These short moments were well used to inform him about our Association. During the aperitif certain amongst



us were introduced to him and he showed his great interest in meeting us in referring to American veterans' associations.

Mrs M MANSOURI represented our insurer. Prior to her very interesting



presentation she received individually those who wanted to discuss their particular issues in private.

During the meeting we had the pleasure of allowing strong personalities to express themselves,

which certainly livens up the meeting but the usefulness of such interventions remains to be demonstrated.

One will remember that the discovery of the NSPA, its future organization and its objectives were listened to attentively.

The topics raised in the Chairman's annual report were the subject of discussion and debate following the formal session.

This opportunity to meet former colleagues should not be missed. The NSPA is young and merits our full attention as do the serious problems with which we could be confronted

Until next year, with more participants.

The Committee

ANOTHER OLD BOYS TRIP IN APRIL 2013

Your Committee is proposing a "Bulb Field" trip to Holland, organised by Frederick J Ten Brink. Leaving Luxembourg on 20th April and returning on the 22nd. It is possible to join us there. For those who have not received the email invitation and who are interested, contact Michel Saudrais (saudrais@pt.lu or tel: +352 691 17 23 31) quickly. The all-in cost, excluding travel, is estimated at EUR 270.- per person

Arrivals - Departures

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

Marielle Sheer 30.05.2012, Nicole Wester 30.06.2012, Daniel Graas 17.07.2012, Thierry Coppens 01.09.2012, Hans-Erik Larsen 12.09.2012, Henriette Moesner 19.09.2012, Danielle Muller 25.09.2012, George Wiltgen 09.10.2012, M-Claire Goller-Faber 26.10.2012, Liliane Matge 31.10.2012, Reinhard Schuster 06.11.2012, Matthias Bickendorf 20.11.2012, Rosemary Pallett 21.11.2012. We are happy to have them with us and we welcome them.

DECEASE:

We have learned that during the year 2011/12 our comrade: Pierre Martial, Manuel Vaz Palma, Henri Maar 28.07.2012, Akre Sigvald, Walser Robert, Gilbert Goasguen 04.09.2012 Theresa Vanderbeeken (epouse) 07.12.2012 passed away.

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.

NOBA, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Fortunato Iaconelli
Vice-Chairman
Vice-Président



Alfred Voss
Vice Chairman
Vice-Président



Jean-Marie Seleck
Member / Membre



Clément Hammel
Member / Membre



Michel Saudrais
Member / Membre



Andrée Mangers
Member / Membre



Isabelle Warschburger
Member / Membre



Jos Berg
Consultant



News

ALLIANZ

Those of us who were present at the Annual General Assembly were able to hear the presentation from Mrs Manahel Mansouri of Allianz during which she recounted how Allianz had been able to overcome teething difficulties following the takeover of the medical insurance contract from Van Breda. At the present time all seems to be in order and the Allianz performance evaluation criteria confirm this.

Mrs Mansouri was also able to discuss particular problems, in private, with nine of our members. We remind you that our two contact points within the committee are Danielle Degrotte (mamylu@pt.lu) and Isabelle Warschburger (isabellew@internet.lu) who have easy and privileged access both to the appropriate office at NATO and to Allianz.

ASSOCIATION EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Our Association is not alone in the NATO galaxy. It maintains three types of external relations:

1- with Agency offices, the General Manager, the Corporate Support and Plans Director, the Staff Association,

the three Division Chiefs AA, AO and AP. Finally the two legal advisors, the internal auditor, the security service and the canteen manager.

2- With the other Associations of retired staff, our friends at the NATO Headquarters International Secretariat. Those at SHAPE in Mons and to a lesser extent, those in Paris.

3- With the two Confederations: that which regroups the Civilian Staff Association Committees and ours which represents Associations of retired staff. But also with the Executive Management Division at the International Secretariat, finally with Allianz. We understand that our address book is not that of a "normal" retired staff member. This list gives an idea of the work achieved by the Committee. The team of fifteen in the Committee makes itself available to maintain these relations in the interests of us all, without forgetting future retirees.

CHAIRMAN'S WISHES

The international situation causes many International Organisations to embark on reforms which are difficult and rigorous for their personnel. NATO has not escaped this conjuncture. Facing this new challenge, the NSPA Old Boys Association will remain alert to developments by participating in

consultation (where it exists) to the extent of its means.

Rest assured that the Chairman and members of the Committee will remain vigilant to our acquired rights which will be defended with pugnacity, devotion and respect for our institution. They send to you, all members of the Association, and your families their best wishes for 2013. They express the wish that our Alliance has the know-how to enter this XXIst century with consideration for its former and active lifeblood.

REMINDERS

1) Communication :

Comme indiqué dans l'Echo précédent (n°5), nous vous rappelons notre désir de réduire les coûts de la diffusion de l'Echo. Merci de nous aider en nous indiquant (si vous ne l'avez pas encore fait) votre souhait de ne plus recevoir la version papier de l'Echo. Sa version électronique est disponible sur notre site www.w.noba-adan.net

2) e-mail : N'oubliez pas de nous envoyer votre adresse courriel ou de nous signaler tout changement d'adresse courriel.