



► Interview with Jesper Hansen

► Editorial by Mikko Harjulehto

The chairman of the largest Danish military trade union *Centralforeningen for Ståmpersonel* (CS) Jesper Hansen replaced Finn Busse Jensen as Board member of EUROMIL.

1. Jesper, would you first tell us something about yourself, your background and your family?

I'm 45 years old and I live in a town called Naestved, which is located in the southern part of Sealand. I'm married to my beautiful wife Tina, with whom I have just celebrated our 19th wedding anniversary. We have two children, Emil, who is 16 years old our youngest, Mads is 12 years old.

I was originally educated in auto electronics and had not considered a professional career in the Armed Forces; until the day I was enlisted and I served at the Ground Forces Materiel Command. My time as enlisted was supposed to last 9 months, but my short "visit" turned out to be a long lasting and it was not until the 1st of January 2007 that I ended my military career in order to take up the position of chairman of CS.

My interest in the military unions began in the period of my enlistment where I became the spokesman of my group. As a spokesman I had direct access to the commander and I was endorsed to negotiate on behalf of the enlisted personnel.

After having served the time as enlisted I was admitted to the army NCO school from which I was promoted sergeant and weapon mechanic. For many years I have served as a teacher of weapon mechanics at the army specialist school, where I have educated countless sergeant candidates and weapon mechanics to the army. I have also served as a weapon specialist ranging from personal weapons to the army's heavy materiel.

My last command post before I was elected chairman of CS was as head of environment for the army base and for all Danish Armed Forces personnel in international missions.

I have on a continued basis supplied my military expertise with civilian studies in mathematics, social science, physics, IT, personnel management and development.

I have served twice in international missions in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. It was during the first mission that I was elected first local union representative and once back home chairman of the local unit of CS. From here I joined the Board of CS and in November 2006 I was elected chairman of CS.

I have always had a great interest in and commitment to local politics, where I have been on the staff of a political party. Seven years ago I even made a try for a political career in our city council, but I did not receive enough votes. This I consider to be a great success today, because if I had received enough votes I would today sit still in a city council instead of being chairman of CS – and to be perfectly honest I prefer the latter!

2. You are since November 2006 the chairman of CS. What are the biggest challenges for CS in the coming years? How will CS cope with them?

One of the greatest challenges is and will be to reorganize the new CS, which has been under some quite dramatic changes since January of this year. CS used to be a conglomerate of five independent organisations, but with the new structure CS became one, and this obviously has created some turbulence and much "getting used to". On top of this we have redesigned our local units' structure, which as a consequence has closed some units and created others. This implies the election of new local representatives and much coordination with the Armed Forces.

It is a great challenge to make all these changes work in the best possible way to the benefit of our members. Most importantly it is vital for us to have the right local representative, who on a daily basis can provide our members with support, guidance and help in executing the military duty under the right circumstances and environment.

It is the results that matter.. We have to show our member that we make a difference and that their interests are well taken care of here at CS.

Finally CS is in the middle of a shift of generations. Many of our old and trusted employees are leaving for retirement in the coming months and years, and new employees will have to take over. We are aiming to create a young and dynamic team that with further studies and "on the job training" will be able to manage the responsibilities handed over to us by our older generation.

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Good news and bad news

It is only a question of time before all EU Member States will acknowledge the usefulness of democratic professional associations in their armed forces. Military associations represent the social and professional interests of soldiers. These expert organisations are in several countries trusted negotiation partners of the military leadership and the Ministries of Defence. Engaging military associations in a normal social dialogue has provided the military leadership with valuable insight-knowledge on the social needs of its soldiers and helped to increase the soldiers' service moral and motivation. Decade-long experience in these states has shown that military unionism is no contradiction to military discipline or combat effectiveness as military associations fully respect the chain of command and do not tolerate insubordination. Despite these positive experiences other EU Member States still severely limit association and union activities within their armed forces.

Several structural factors will however make a change of attitudes necessary: the rapidly advancing technical development of armed forces and increasing sophistication of modern weapon systems set growing educational and training demands on the soldiers of today. European soldiers are also expected to serve in increasingly challenging crisis management operations which demand not only from officers but from all ranks language skills as well as capacity for independent situational judgment and constructive interaction with civilian actors. To put it short: military people are better educated and more specialized than many of our fellow citizens are aware of. And educated, highly specialised experts tend to demand a say in their employment conditions.

Many European armed forces suffer already today from severe recruitment shortages. The growing individualisation and over-ageing in European societies will make military recruitment even more difficult. European armed forces will need to become more attractive to catch the attention of sufficient numbers of volunteers, who meet the necessary standards. The political and military leadership in all EU states will thus be more prone to acknowledge professional military unions. Especially as these democratically elected representatives of highly specialized, educated soldiers have proven to be reliable negotiation partners.

This was the good news.

Now the bad news: without focused lobbying it might take decades before these changes take place. The aforementioned growing professionalisation and sophistication of the military profession will make reforms inevitable. But as anybody who has personally worked in armed forces will testify, reforms of military structures and attitudes are often painstakingly slow. Do we want to wait that long? Or will we engage political and military elites in a dialogue highlighting the benefits that military associations bring to modern professional armed forces? EUROMIL is a useful tool to this end. Working together on a European level enhances the interest representation and lobbying efforts of EUROMIL's member associations.

Military associations bring added-value to the military.
EUROMIL brings added-value to its member associations.

Mikko Harjulehto
Secretary General

3. The Danish armed forces have undergone within a decade fundamental structural changes. The Danish military shifted its structure and focus from territorial defence to international crisis-management operations. How has this, in your view, affected the military personnel in Denmark?

In my opinion, the foreign policy that Denmark has been pursuing since 2001 has created a new and more positive awareness in the Danish public towards the Armed Forces. The old mobilisation army was more or less invisible to the general public, since the only real contact was the annual conscription, which actually only concerned approximately 6-7000 young men every year.

The multiple international missions have created a new status for the Armed Forces which has promoted this positive attitude towards both the Armed Forces and the international missions more than ever before. People can see that our soldiers make a difference in places where human rights barely exist under difficult circumstances between life and death. This, of course as a consequence raises the interest of the media and we are today witnessing that national security- and defence politics are a matter of public debate. This is a two-edged sword. The public attention and interest has given the soldier status and self-awareness, but it has also opened a Pandora's Box of new problems and challenges. The hardship of being on international mission in Iraq and Afghanistan are beginning to show signs of mental reactions like stress and mental fatigue – in the worst cases PTSD – as well as a general strain on the personnel. Denmark is in the front row of dealing with these complicated issues in terms of granting the soldiers mental and physical aid and assistance. However, a good deal could and should still be improved. There is no doubt that the highly demanding missions in Iraq and Afghanistan have put a great strain on our soldiers. CS is unrelentingly putting forward the demand that the members of Parliament and the Minister of Defence take responsibility in dealing with these social consequences.

These factors play a part in the recent difficulties to recruit new personnel, forcing the current personnel more frequently to international missions and further increasing the mental and physical strain. All parties are working to solve the current problems, but as of yet no solid solution has been found.

4. Danish troops are currently serving in very challenging crisis-management operations in Southern Afghanistan and Iraq. What is in your view the role that military trade unions can play in this situation?

In my opinion, CS and other military trade unions play an essential role in securing the fundamental rights of our soldiers. There is no doubt that the current focus on physical aid and social perspectives is gaining more and more influence in the Armed Forces due to the work of the unions. Even during the toughest missions we aim at securing the basic rights and social needs of our soldiers, and we believe that these rights actually make the soldiers better at their job.

We must not forget that the great transformation of the Danish Armed Forces has left an enormous demand on human resources and the daily management of the personnel. Here CS along with the other two military unions in Denmark play a crucial role in securing the correct and acceptable salaries, working hours, and working environment for our members.

We see it as our fundamental task to keep our Government and our members of Parliament responsible for their legislation and demands on the Armed Forces. When the Parliament decides to send soldiers on international mission it is also the Parliament's responsibility to guarantee a broad social security for the individual soldier when he returns home.

Let me conclude, that in a world where instability and unrest is a part of the daily agenda and where Governments make active use of the Armed Forces in fighting for democracy and human rights around the world, the more we need military trade unions to secure the fundamental rights of our soldiers. It cannot be accepted that soldiers risk their lives to secure democratic rights they themselves do not possess.

Interviewed by MH

► EU plans civil-military mission in Chad

The EU will provide for an EU civil-military mission in Chad for stabilisation of the democratic process. The EU mandate is not drawn up, yet the mission in planning. The final decision will fall in September. The Political-Security Committee meets again on 2 September 2007. Poland has already offered to send 150 servicemen.

The EU signed an agreement as an observer and will participate as a "facilitator" after the signature in N'Djamena on 13 August 2007 of the political agreement between the conflict parties with a view of a reinforcement of the democratic process in Chad by all the Chadian political parties in the majority and in the opposition. 17 parties represent the political landscape in Chad.

Read more about it in the next newsletter. CJ

► EUROMIL meets Director of EUMS



Lt. Gen Leakey in discussion with the High Representative during exercise Millex 07. Source: "Council of the European Union"

A delegation of EUROMIL composed of the President Emmanuel Jacob, the Secretary General Mikko Harjulehto and the Officer for Security and Defence Affairs Christine Jakob met with Lieutenant General Leakey, Director of the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) on 30 July 2007.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the General about EUROMIL's current activities and objectives. Today the European Organisation of Military Associations comprises 34 associations in 22 European countries and is the primary European forum for a free exchange of views among servicemen. EUROMIL member associations have voiced their concern about the numerous problems caused to soldiers by differing national standards in common multinational operations. These issues were communicated to Lt Gen Leakey.

General David Leakey has taken up his functions from his predecessor Jean-Paul Perruche in February 2007. He has a steady military career with an impressive operational experience from several peacekeeping missions with the UK, NATO, OSCE, UN and the EU.

The Director of the European Union Military Staff heads the European Union Military Staff which is currently composed of 205 civilian and military personnel seconded from the national defence staffs. The role of the European Union Military Staff is to perform early warning strategic planning and situation assessment. It provides military expertise to the High Representative Javier Solana and takes orders from the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee who represents the Chiefs of Defence of all the Member States. CJ

► News from the President of EUROMIL, Emmanuel Jacob

National roundtable Baku 2-3 August 2007:

“The provision of welfare support for the services – (inter)national perspectives”

The President of EUROMIL participated on 2 and 3 August at a national roundtable in Baku (Azerbaijan) organised by the regional OSCE Office.

This event was the second workshop organized by the Baku office, taking stock of the implementation of democratic control mechanisms in the Azeri armed forces.

The workshop was divided in three parts. More than 50 representatives of 34 NGOs of various welfare support groups were present.

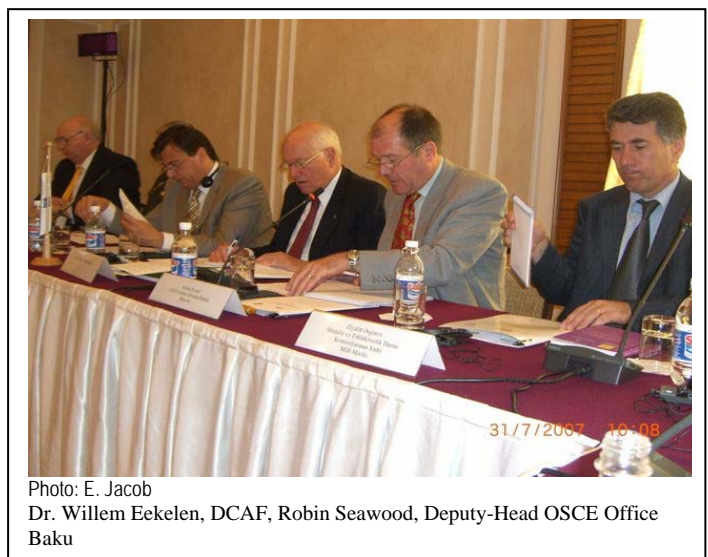
The participants were welcomed by LtGen Chingiz Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Keynote speakers were Mr Araz Azimov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador José-Luis Herrero, Head of the OSCE Office in Baku and last but not least Dr. Willem F. van Eekelen from the Netherlands, a.o. member of DCAF advisory Board and former Defence minister of the Netherlands. In his speech Dr. van Eekelen mentioned and highlighted the work that EUROMIL provided in this field since several years.

In session one, speakers from Canada, Belgium and the UK presented typical examples of the problems which members, former members of the military and their families may face and how those issues are resolved by and for the military. Further they explained what process is invoked when the internal response to problems is inadequate for whatever reason. The objective was to present other countries as sharing similar problems with Azerbaijan, and to shed some light on best practice. The speakers demonstrated that there are and will continue to be shortcomings in any system and that therefore a continual process is required to accommodate the need. Also the absolute necessity for good human rights training from the onset of any military career - be it commissioned officer, other rank, or even for those conscripted for a limited period, was emphasized. The need for continuous training and recourse to both adequate information sources and quality legal support has been well underscored. It was clearly stated that non-governmental welfare organizations are able to provide, where appropriate, support to service personnel, which may be beyond the capacity of the services themselves to offer.

The second session provided an opportunity for the Azerbaijani delegates to look at the framework which links the military to its government, both in terms of the exercise of democratic oversight, but also in order that citizens in uniform can avail themselves of the right to appeal or seek appropriate independent consideration of issues which they may face in service. The Canadian Ombudsman, Mr. Yves Côté, and a UK Member of Parliament the UK Rt. Hon. Bruce George, explored the role played by civil society in lobbying the rights of both the services as a whole and individuals therein.

In the third session, Dr Mark Sandman (Traumatic Stress Specialist from the USA), was designed to clearly show what load welfare organizations can take from the services themselves and to discuss the various ways in which they are able to deliver their support - either from within the armed services, or from without; independently working with the Ministry of Defence, or via the Parliament or other body. It seems that there is a considerable reluctance amongst the authorities in Azerbaijan to allow non-governmental organisations to 'interfere' with the Government (or the ruling party). They are seen largely as 'opposition' and therefore a threat.

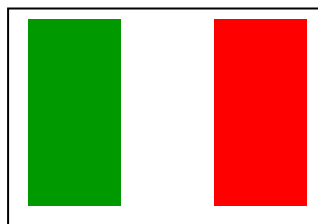
By presenting several good and bad practices of EUROMIL member organisations and their (national) working methods EUROMIL tried to encourage the authorities (and MOD in particular) to be more amenable to the civil society role. EJ



► Some light at the end of the tunnel ?

AMID has informed EUROMIL that the Italian senator Guilio Marini has put forward a legislative proposal in order to change the actual system of representation for military personnel in Italy since it “demonstrated all its limitations”. Marini argues against the background that the current system of representation does not “respect the principle of modernity”. He suggests the formal recognition of the right of association for military personnel that he deems “feasible” and in particular to establish and acknowledge the social role of a military representative system.

This initiative renews the existent multi-layered system for at national level the “central council for military Rappresentanza militare), at regional level the intermediate body council” (COBAR). The COCER would be composed by the secretary and a presidency committee. The presidency would with the highest rank. Every member of the Italian armed forces regardless the rank. The competent authorities for this military all questions with regard to the general service of the armed specific budgetary matters.



and establishes democratic accountable structures representation” (COnciglio CEntrale della COIR) and finally at local-barrack level a “basic following organs: assembly, president, executive automatically be given to the elected representative can stand for election and has the right to vote representative system are the Ministry of Defence in forces and the Ministry of Finance with regard to all

The COCER has consultative status for all questions related to service and labour regulations (of the armed forces) and has an advisory role in all social questions for the Chief of Defence Staff.

AMID's position:

AMID certainly approves the legislative proposal in particular the diagnosis that the actual system is inefficient. Also the formal recognition of the right of association for military personnel is a first step in the right direction in Italy.

However, AMID doubts about the independence of a single military representative system conferred by the legislator and "controlled" by the Ministry of Defence. It would easily undermine the concept of the freedom of association.

AMID would certainly favour the "trade union solution" and fears that this proposal would develop into a "yellow trade union" arrangement.

Link: Legislative proposal Nr. 1688 from "Senator" Giulio Marini 5 July 2007
http://www.ficiesse.it/public/609_1688.doc C J

► Bi-lateral co-operation in EUROMIL- Partnership AFMP/MARVER-FNV (NL) and HOSZ (HUN)

Dutch Trade Union Leaders in Budapest- By Róbert Szita – Ferenc Kiséri Nagy (HOSZ)

The Chairman of the Dutch partner association AFMP-FNV, Wim van den Burg and the Vice- Chairman, Han Busker reciprocated the visit of the member of the Presidium of Honvédszakszervezet (HOSZ) to the Netherlands in 2006. The delegation visiting Hungary between 22-25 July was also met by Ms Ágnes Vadai, PhD, the State Secretary of the MoD.

The program of the Dutch trade union delegation started in the Ministry of Defence in Budapest on 23 July. After a meeting with Mr. Géza Zsoldos from the Secretary of Defence Interest Reconciliation Forum (HÉF), the leaders of AFMP-FNV and HOSZ were hosted by Ms Ágnes Vadai, the state secretary of the MoD.

In the presence of Géza Mészáros, President and Mr. Ottó Heiling, PhD, Vice President of HOSZ, the Defence budget, general orientations of security policy of the Netherlands and naturally current issues of interest reconciliation in the Dutch Armed Forces were discussed. This meeting was followed by a bilateral meeting between AFMP-FNV and HOSZ in its headquarters. Since the delegation of HOSZ in Woerden last year got to know the functioning of a veteran-home in Doorn, one of the goals of the return visit was to get acquainted with measures aiming to improve the situation of retired soldiers and the Hungarian model.

The guests were briefed by Lt. Col József Szabó, Deputy Head in the Directorate for personnel of the MoD about the amount of people belonging to the range of care of the MoD, the military recruiting system, issues of re-integration into civilian life, the levels of attendance, as well as services rendered to the national labour market. Also present during the meeting were Mr. Géza Sipos, the president of the National Association of Fraternal Societies (BEOSZ), Brig. Gen. (Rtd.) István Szekeres, its chairman and Lajos Pusztai, the secretary of the 'For Soldiers' Foundation.

Following this event, the guests were met by István Gaskó, the president of LIGA Confederation and Mr. Péter Kónya, the president of the Trade Union of Employees of the Armed and Law Enforcement Forces (FRDÉSZ). During the conversations – after briefing the guests about the forms of representation on the fora of national interest reconciliation – István Gaskó said about the present situation of the on-going social dialogue: 'FRDÉSZ is able to organize very effective trade unions, while HOSZ – within the framework of the Trade Union Confederation – is one of the strongest base of the LIGA Confederation. Péter Kónya, FRDÉSZ president while mentioning the on-going social dialogue of the armed and law enforcement sphere underlined the necessity and strength of the concentration of forces.

Géza Mészáros, President of HOSZ highlighted the importance of preserving the successful salary talks with the Ministry and the construction of service pensions.



Zoltán Hangonyi, Vice-President (finance) of LIGA, as well as Balázs Bárány, Vice-President of the Railway Employees Free Trade Union (VDSZSZ) were also present during the multilateral talks.

On the second day of the visit, Wim van den Burg, and Han Busker visiting our country was welcomed by the Presidium.

While Géza Mészáros presented the history, organisation, present tasks, the prime trade union services provided by Honvédszakszervezet, Egység (Unity) 2002 Co., Ltd, 'For Soldiers' Foundation, as well as the means of communication, like the newspaper Egység (Unity), the web site and HOSZ on-line TV, the guests also presented the organisation of the Dutch AFMP-FNV.

The job of the Presidium at the Trade Union organised according to the services is difficult, since the soldiers in active duty are extremely busy. The Board of Directors, similar to HOSZ', is comprised of three 'top-Directors' only, the President, the Vice-President and the General Secretary, though their work is effectively supported by a staff of 25.

The relation between AFMP-FNV and the Ministry of Defence, the participation on salary talks, as well as EUR 10.50 trade union membership fee was also mentioned.

The Dutch guests added that HOSZ must deserve representation in the Board of EUROMIL worthy to its weight and number of members.

► **Informal meeting of Minister of Employment and Social Affairs**

The informal meeting of Minister of Employment and Social Affairs took place in Guimarães/Portugal on 5 and 6 July 2007. The conclusions of this meeting are summarized in a 12 key point document.

Relevance to soldiers as "citizens in uniform" can be seen in the emphasis in this conclusion of the quality of jobs, conciliation of work, family and personal life with implication of the equality of men and women.

Further information of all activities concerning the Portuguese Presidency until the end of this year is available on <http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/> GDH

► **Gender-mainstreaming in the Defence Forces: EU and NATO policies**

Gender equality and gender mainstreaming are important topics on the European political agenda. The EU has a relatively long tradition of developing legal frameworks to support gender equality.

The EU has tried to clarify that besides the equal treatment legislation, the gender equality strategy requires both specific gender equality actions and the mainstreaming of gender equality as perspective in all areas.

Gender mainstreaming in crisis-management operations specifically became an issue only in 2005, when the EU Council welcomed a paper by the General Secretariat on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 from 2000 on "women, peace and security" that calls for gender mainstreaming in peace operations.

What concretely is gender-main streaming in ESDP ?

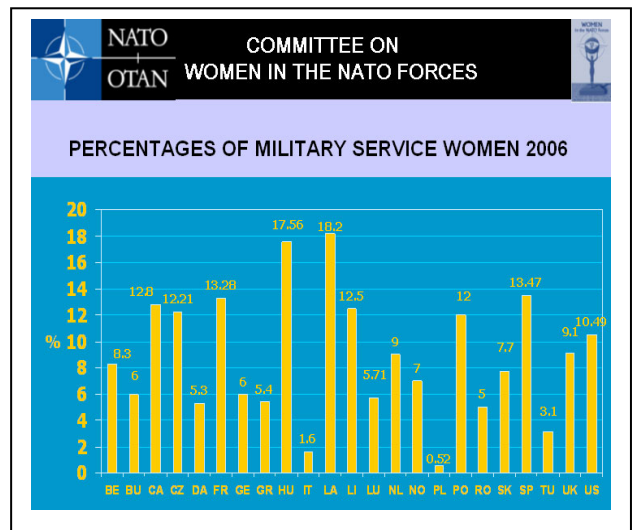
It is not only the increase in numbers of women participating in peacekeeping operation but also involving "planning, policies, programmes and legislation that take into account gender-specific situations and experiences that have an effect on the lives of men and women".

According to a study of the European Union Institute of Security Studies commissioned by the Council, "a gender perspective must be included systematically at every stage of an operation: in planning (including fact finding missions), implementation, monitoring and "lessons learned". For that reason a checklist has been provided that does provide for a systematic guidance for military and civilian planners in the Member States.

NATO already in 1961 organized the first conference of senior women officers with delegates from Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States in Copenhagen, which became the Committee on Women in NATO Forces. Today 25 nations are represented in the Committee on Women in the NATO Forces and it promotes "equality of all its military personnel in terms of recruitment and employment, training and development and quality of life". One of the goals of the committee is the enhancement of women's conditions of service in NATO operations.

What is certainly important, to improve the situation of women in the armed forces is the dedication of member states to support gender mainstreaming policies in the defence structures since member states have supremacy in that matter.

Interestingly, EUROMIL's intervention at the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in March this year, the Irish ambassador asked what EUROMIL contributed with regard to gender mainstreaming. A question that can be easily answered in reviewing our member associations' efforts in lobbying for gender issues in their home country. Only one of many examples, is the German Federal Armed Forces Federation success in pushing for the equality directive in the German Armed Forces. Also PDFORRA is dealing with gender equality issues in the framework of a commissioned report by the MoD on the retention and the recruitment of women in the Irish Defence Forces. Read more in our next newsletter on our exemplary work of EUROMIL's member associations in promoting gender equality!
CJ



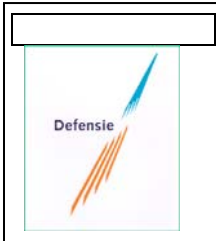
► **Not only for female soldiers !**

A good overview of female soldiers in the Armed Forces of NATO members states is available with statistics and „national reports“ on the following website: http://www.nato.int/issues/women_nato/index.html

The Committee on the women in the NATO Forces (CWINF) provides you with detailed information on legal and personnel development of each NATO Member State.

It recently held its annual meeting in Berlin/Germany, from 11 June to 15 June 07. The task was to finalize the "CWINF guidance for NATO gender mainstreaming" related to all aspects of NATO Operations. GDH

► **Dutch Defence Programme of reassignment or job offer search in civilian labour market**



In the social programme policy paper for the soldiers of the Dutch Armed forces "Sociaal Beleidskader Defensie" dated 18 December 2003, soldiers being candidates as leavers due to unit reorganisations or general cutbacks are benefiting for a fixed maximum two year period from this program having a reassignment status. During this 2-year period -still on active duty- the candidate receives in any case full salary until the end of the work contract. The first six months of this 2-year time frame before the contract ends is used to examine the possibility for renewing the work contract with the Armed Forces or the necessity to search for a new job on the civilian labour market. If the search of the renewal is not successful all effort is focused on an adequate civilian job engagement.

Various tools to succeed in this undertaking are provided at hand with a personal coach allocated at a job centre and paid by the Ministry of Defence. These endorsing financial measure ranges from stimulating self-employment with a starter allowance, supplementary education paid by the Ministry of Defence, compensation pay in case the newly found and executed civilian job is less well paid than beforehand at the military or when relocation costs emerged due to the new job and finally a bonus pay in case of a successful procurement by the "Kansrijk" institute

(<http://www.kansrijk.info>). This institute acts as a specific mediator for military personnel in close cooperation with the civilian private employment agencies "Capability", "United Restart" and "Randstad".

In the worst case of not succeeding on the civilian labour market the leaver received a reduced pay by his former military employer according to his salary in active times. The payment period is related accordingly to his time of active service.

The installation and usage of this social program was an initiative and successfully lobbied and conducted by the Dutch military trade unions, being members of EUROMIL.

Mr. Wim van den Burg, Chairman of AFMP/FNV (Algemene Federatie van Militair Personeel) stresses that the position of the Dutch military trade unions remains the same: In order to provide their members with a soft and quick change of employers without any loss of income, chances and time if a reassignment in the Armed Forces is impossible due to reduction of personnel.

GDH

► **Meeting of Iberian Peninsula Military Associations**

On 28 July 2007, three of five Iberian members associations of EUROMIL held an informal meeting in Badajoz/Spain under the coordination of Antonio Lima Coelho, Chairman of ANS (Associação Nacional de Sargentos) and member of the EUROMIL Board. The issues discussed between the present Paco Millán, Paco Ceballos, José Miguel Ortega (A.M.A.R.T.E –Asociación Nacional de Militares en Activo y Reseva/Retirado de los Tres Ejércitos y Cuerosps Comunes–), Jorge Bravo, Antonio León, Emilio Gonzales, Paco Martín, (AUME –Asociación Unificada de Militares Españoles–) and Antonio Lima Coelho, José Gonçalves and Paulo Contreiras (ANS) were manifold:

Firstly, Mr Lima Coelho reported on EUROMIL internal personnel changes over the last years and the general activities of EUROMIL. Furthermore he



explained considerations made at Board meetings concerning the active participation and contribution of the member associations at Presidium meetings by a reshaped and standardised national report form and by enforcing information flow

and exchange of opinions via an integrated workshop of experts in the forthcoming Presidium meeting in Paris. The good and thorough cooperation with BAFF (British Armed Forces Federation) since the first meeting in Krakow as well as the appreciated and necessary installation of the newsletter were the last topics concerning the umbrella organisation.

The second half of the meeting dealt with specific problems the member associations face in their countries reasserting the necessary cooperation across border lines. Proposals concerning topics of future workshop were raised by Mr. Jorge Bravo (AUME) as i.e the different disciplinary statutes or compatibility of military with private life.

The next cross border member associations' meeting is scheduled for the end of September 2007. GDH

► **EUROMIL Calendar September/October**

- 3-4 September: Board Meeting, Lisbon (PT)
- 17-18 September: 6th Congress on European Defence, Berlin (DE)
- 18-19 September: Charter Committee Meeting, Brussels (BE)
- 8-12 October: Annual Delegate Conference PDFORRA (IE)
- 25-26 October: Board, Presidium Meeting and seminar on "Problems of Soldiers in the Field", Paris (FR)

JSW

EUROMIL- European Organisation of Military Associations

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