NRF put to the test in Cape Verde

By U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Joel I. Huval

Nearly 8,000 NATO Response Force troops invaded the island nation of Cape Verde from June 15-28 for Exercise Steadfast Jaguar, the NRF’s first live-fire exercise.

Planning for an exercise of this magnitude started two years ago with analysis and initial discussions of a site location and scenario. It only seemed fitting to put NRF troops to a test by situating them in a rugged, mountainous African nation.

Five options were presented to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe from Allied Joint Forces Command, Brunssum, The Netherlands, and Allied Maritime Component Command headquarters in Northwood, U.K.

Aside from Cape Verde, other options included Ghana, Gabon, Iceland and Newfoundland, Canada.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Kelley, a staff officer with Allied Command Transformation’s Joint Exercises Branch, was involved in planning Steadfast Jaguar as a staff officer with Joint Force Command’s Plans and Policy Branch.

Kelley explained the reason for using such an isolated location for the exercise.

“NATO is demonstrating the ability to deploy the NRF at strategic distance to an austere environment exactly as the North Atlantic Council directed it to in the Prague Summit of 2002,” he said.

Although the distance and geography were important, there were other reasons Cape Verde was the chosen location for the exercise.

“The NRF is also here to offer military assistance to the Cape Verdeans,” said U.S. Navy Reserve Cmdr. Eric Jabs, the officer in charge of Jaguar experimentation assigned to Allied Command Transformation. “We are sharing best practices and learning from each other in both operational planning and execution.”

Portuguese NRF soldiers practice urban operations during Exercise Steadfast Jaguar in Mindelo, Cape Verde. The two-week exercise tested the expeditionary forces’ ability to operate as a coherent, agile unit. Photo: Andreas Steindl, Joint Forces Command, Brunssum.

Jabs said ACT has four distinct roles it is playing in the exercise.

“ACT is here to perform experiments ranging from radar perimeter security to wastewater purification,” he said. “We are also here to provide senior mentors to the Cape Verdean leadership, to track analysis for lessons learned and to provide a deployed Navy Reserve component.”

The importance of the NRF, scheduled to reach full operational capability Oct. 1, was explained by Supreme Allied Commander Transformation U.S. Air Force Gen. Lance L. Smith during Exercise Allied Reach, held in Norfolk, Va., earlier this year.

“Clearly its primary focus is to be the military arm of the Alliance should we have to resort to the use of military,” Smith said. “At the same time, it is the primary vehicle of transformation within the Alliance. The NRF is the vehicle where we will develop the technologies to work together, as well as tactics and procedures. All of this goes into building a cohesive force that can rapidly respond in time of war.”

Once fully operational, the NATO Response Force will give the Alliance the ability to deploy up to 25,000 troops within five days anywhere in the world to tackle the full range of missions, from humanitarian relief to major combat operations.

Testing the NRF’s ability on land, sea, and in the air involved several complex scenarios.

Live-fire, rappelling, maritime force protection and antiterrorism, as well as humanitarian assistance demonstrations took place on nearly half of the 10 islands in the Cape Verde archipelago.

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, along with other key NATO political and military leaders, visited the African island nation June 22-23 to witness first-hand the capabilities of the NRF in action.

“You see here the new NATO, a NATO which has the possibility to be expeditionary, to project stability,” Scheffer said.
STAVANGER, Norway — Supreme Allied Commander Transformation U.S. Air Force General Lance L. Smith hosted a press conference in the Radisson SAS Atlantic Hotel, Stavanger, Norway, June 21, with Her Excellency Anne-Grete Strom-Erichsen, Norwegian Minister of Defence and His Excellency Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General.

The theme of the press conference was this year’s SACT Seminar on “Delivering Transformation.” The one-and-a-half day seminar brought together the senior leadership of NATO to foster relationships and to guide transformational thinking.

Smith opened the press conference with a statement about NATO’s transformation. He stressed NATO is transforming for the future, and highlighted the importance of the Joint Warfare Centre in this process. Through tailored rehearsals and robust training programs, the Joint Warfare Centre and the Joint Force Training Centre ensure NATO forces can effectively respond to crises prior to engagement in contingency operations.

“We chose Stavanger to host this seminar, as a visible element of what Allied Command Transformation does is right here at the Joint Warfare Centre.” Smith emphasised the importance of the ACT training mission, to include JWC’s training of NATO staffs prior to deployment to Afghanistan, as well as that of NATO Response Force operational commanders. “At the same time, it is here at JWC where we train Iraqi key leaders,” he said.

Enforcing the seminar’s theme, Scheffer added, “Twenty years ago, it would be unthinkable that NATO would send thousands of men and women to Afghanistan. It would be unthinkable that NATO would launch a major operation after an earthquake, as it was in Kashmir, Pakistan, that involves airlifting of necessities, setting up hospitals and tents. It would be unthinkable, even three years ago, that the aircraft assigned to NATO would fly the forces of the African Union in the horror-theatre which is called Darfur. So, simply realise that changing NATO is a permanent process, and that is done under the leadership of General Smith. NATO’s credibility is linked, to a large extent, with how successful we are in these missions. You need the right people who, at the same time, need the right training,” he added.

In discussing the capabilities required to improve NATO, the three panel participants confirmed that the Alliance should possess capabilities across the full spectrum of military operations to provide NATO forces with the flexibility to respond to the threats of the 21st century. To this end, the immediate focus of transformation is supporting Allied Command Operations and delivering the NATO Response Force. Smith emphasised that the NATO Response Force would demonstrate the Alliance’s ability to meet threats wherever they may arise and has a critical role as the Alliance’s vehicle of transformation.

Strom-Erichsen stressed that she was very pleased Stavanger hosted more than 100 participants for this important seminar, representing the 26 member nations of NATO.

“I am very glad that so many distinguished individuals are gathered here to discuss the future of NATO. We share a responsibility together with all member states. We need to transform our armed forces together and make this our common responsibility,” she said.

**New DCOS Transformation named**


At Joint Forces Command, Soligan was responsible for managing the command’s warfighting initiatives and providing guidance to the command’s executive staff on day-to-day matters. Additionally, he supervised all of the command’s administrative issues.

Soligan’s role at ACT is to head the transformation directorate’s capability and implementation divisions. The transformation directorate identifies required and essential capabilities to enhance NATO’s operational capabilities and to meet NATO’s future requirements.

Soligan has also served as a division chief, U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany; special assistant and executive officer to Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Mons, Belgium; director of strategy, policy and plans, U.S. Southern Command, Miami, Fla.; and as deputy chief of staff for United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea.

A command pilot, Soligan has flown more than 4,000 hours in seven different types of aircraft. He holds a master of business administration degree from Southern Illinois University and has attended the National War College and the Harvard University Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security.
CJOS Centre of Excellence

MoU a ‘win-win’ for all involved

By U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Joel I. Huval

NORFOLK, Va.—Thirteen NATO nations signed the functional and operational Memorandums of Understanding, marking an important milestone toward creating the Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence, May 31 at Allied Command Transformation headquarters.

Hosted by the United States, the CJOS CoE will facilitate joint maritime expeditionary transformation in support of NATO.

Among the signers were Supreme Allied Commander Transformation U.S. Air Force Gen. Lance L. Smith and the centre’s prospective director, Commander Second Fleet U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Mark P. Fitzgerald.

“What makes this so important to ACT is the opportunity to capitalise on the expertise and bring that back into our concept development and experimentation program,” Smith said. “This [agreement] is essential to transforming the Alliance. It is a win-win situation for the nations, the centre and NATO.”

CoEs are nationally funded centres whose efforts closely parallel those of NATO’s transformational strategic command. Working in concert with these centres provide opportunities for NATO and Partnership for Peace leaders and units to improve interoperability and capabilities, test and develop doctrine, and validate concepts through experimentation.

As militaries work to deal effectively with transformation, this maritime CoE affords some degree of continuity in a sea of change. Since the centre is uniquely positioned to be supported by embedded members of the sea-going Second Fleet staff, the CoE will target its activities on areas where gaps may exist in maritime experience and expertise within the Alliance. Maintaining linkage to U.S. development in expeditionary maritime operations offers potential improvement in NATO efforts, such as Operation Active Endeavour.

The integrated CoE will leverage concepts through synergistic, cooperative efforts. It will benefit directly from the operational tempo of its surroundings and maintain a high state of operational readiness. This organisation will support NATO’s transformation by maintaining a core group who can develop, test, and refine the means and mechanisms by which a leader can command and control from afloat, a key pillar when assigned contingency tasking such as the Maritime Component Commander for NATO’s Response Force.

“This has been a two-year effort to get to this point,” Fitzgerald said. “I think we will be able to support three separate entities through this centre. First will be the sponsoring nations, who will define our programme of work, tell us what they want us to do and focus our efforts. We’ll obviously be working for NATO through ACT and our maritime component commanders in Naples, Italy. I see us supporting [ACT’s] strategic-level guidance with operational-level efforts. Also, having 13 nations on my staff adds a multinational flavour as we deploy our forces forward to operate with the NATO nations in places like the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf.”

ACT participates in ITEC

LONDON — Officials from Allied Command Transformation headquarters took part in this year’s International Training and Education Conference in London May 16 to 18.

ITEC is Europe’s only conference and exhibition dedicated to defence training, education and simulation, and demonstrates qualified international military training and simulation from 40 countries.

This year ACT Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Joint Education and Training Brig. Gen. Gundars Abols briefed the international military and industrial audience on NATO and NATO Partnership for Peace advanced distributed learning programmes.

ACT staff manned an exhibit booth along with the NATO Research Technology Organisation. The live demonstrations focused on the new learning management system hosted by ACT JET and the Pathfinder project supported by ACT and the RTO.

ITEC also offers ACT staff the opportunity to attend lectures and see demonstrations of the latest technologies and products to support military training.
SACT thanks Poland for contributions, hosting Joint Forces Training Command
By Canadian Navy Cmdr. J. D. Scanlon

BYDGOSZCZ, Poland — Poland’s commitments to global peace and security and its efforts to transform its armed forces from a defensive force to one ready to support NATO operations worldwide were discussed during the first official visit here by NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.

“We appreciate the role your soldiers play around the world, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan,” U.S. Air Force Gen. Lance Smith told Poland’s Chief of the General Staff, Gen. Franciszek Gagor, during staff talks held in Warsaw May 15. “I am here to find out what support we can provide and what we can learn from you.”

“We are also excited about the Joint Force Training Centre and look forward to when it will reach full operating capability,” he added. The supreme commander was in Poland from May 14 to 16. The first two days involved official ceremonies and staff talks, and the final day was spent at the JFTC. The new NATO centre is hosted by the Polish government, which has provided land, infrastructure, and a support team.

“Our armed forces were mainly designed for the defence of our borders during the Cold War and now they have to be significantly reorganised for missions beyond our borders,” Gagor said during the talks. This has been a “big challenge,” he said, and he thanked Allied Command Transformation for its support and commented that both sides would gain valuable lessons learned.

“Participation in real world operations focuses our attention on where we need to transform,” he added. Poland has more than 2,200 soldiers deployed worldwide, including a battalion in Iraq and a company in Afghanistan. It has reduced its forces from 240,000 in 1998 to 150,000 today. By 2010, Poland expects one-third of its armed forces to be completely interoperable with the Alliance.

During his visit to the JFTC, Smith and the centre’s director, Maj. Gen. Peter Kuhnel, met with more than a dozen regional journalists. Smith took the opportunity to publicly thank the Polish government and the local community for their strong support of the JFTC and its mission.

“In the long run, I expect there will be NATO officers from countries all over the world coming to your city to train for operations with the NATO Response Force and for other activities in the world,” the general said. “Training missions will cover all aspects, from disaster relief all the way through major combat operations.”

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SACT visits Slovenia, joins armed forces day events
By Canadian Navy Cmdr. J. D. Scanlon

CERKLJE, Slovenia—Amidst national armed forces day celebrations here, Slovenia’s defence chief and NATO’s strategic commander responsible for Alliance transformation found time for productive staff talks about the country’s ongoing integration into the Alliance. Slovenia joined NATO in 2004.

At the invitation of the Chief of the Slovenian Armed Forces General Staff, Army Gen. Ladislav Lipic, NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, U.S. Air Force Gen. Lance Smith, was guest of honour at Cerklje Airport on May 13 for events marking the 15th anniversary of the day Slovenia began training its own armed forces. This was Smith’s first visit as SACT to Slovenia.

“What we saw today was a great indication of how far we’ve come together,” Smith said after watching a simulated ground assault by the Slovenian Armed Forces that involved infantry, armoured assault vehicles, tactical helicopters, and various support services.

“What Slovenia has done so well is to focus on a high-quality ground force that is able to contribute positively to the Alliance,” Smith said at a press conference held with Lipic following two hours of staff talks.

In 2004, the Slovenian government approved a long-term defence plan developed in consultation with NATO. In line with ACT’s transformational thinking, it calls for a mobile, multipurpose land force that can support Alliance and coalition operations around the globe.

Also in line with NATO thinking, the plan calls for a baseline defence budget of two per cent of GDP by 2008—it currently stands at 1.7 per cent. The plan’s operational “level of ambition” is to be able to globally deploy and sustain a company-sized unit by 2007 and a battalion-sized task force by 2012.

“I am convinced that, in cooperation with ACT, this is going to be successful,” Lipic said. “By working with ACT, we have access to information and lessons learned from different armed forces, along with new concepts that will help us to operate with Alliance forces.”
Symposium examines security challenges

By U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Joel I. Huval

NORFOLK, Va. – A one-day symposium entitled “Meeting the challenges of the 21st Century,” sponsored by Old Dominion University, and hosted by NATO’s Allied Command Transformation and the Canadian Embassy was held April 25.

The symposium began with opening remarks from the 53rd Queen Azalea Paulina Gretzky, daughter of Canadian hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, who represented her country as this year’s most honoured nation.

“I know you are working hard for global peace and security,” she said. “I know you have great work ahead and I hope you accept my thanks and my wishes for a successful symposium.”

Following Gretzky, ODU President Dr. Roseann Rute spoke about the university’s history before introducing Supreme Allied Commander Transformation U.S. Air Force Gen. Lance L. Smith.

Old Dominion University is one of most diverse universities in the United States, boasting students from more than 80 nations with 25 percent of its student population having a direct tie to the military.

Smith’s remarks reflected the need for continued progress toward closing gaps in Alliance capabilities and security funding.

“The capability gaps NATO has experienced in the past may still exist,” Smith said. “As we look at the threats we are dealing with today, and what we are going to need to fight this long war, we are either going to have to change our approach and attitudes or find new ways of doing business. Maybe this symposium can help solve these problems today.”

The morning’s keynote speaker, former Canadian Ambassador Dr. Paul Heinbecker, set the tone for several panel discussions held throughout the remainder of the day.

“NATO transformation is happening in a very difficult environment because of factors within and external to the Alliance,” Heinbecker said. “The external factors are obvious – cultural resentment, the failure of states, such as Sudan and Afghanistan, and the dangers they present to their own citizens. Internally, there is the inadequate response of multilateral organisations, including NATO itself. There are disagreements on controlling weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. There are also disagreements on effective responses to terrorism. These internal factors are going to be a lot harder to deal with. Complicating Alliance transformation are two linked challenges: the absence of consensus in the world about common danger and the absence of consensus about what the roles of NATO and the European Union need to be.”

Following Heinbecker, the group of approximately 90 military representatives and academics broke into panel discussions to find ways to solve the issues placed before them.

The morning panels included topics on weapons of mass destruction proliferation, countering terrorism, and cultural divisiveness.

Led by John Sandrock, director of the Atlantic Council Program on International Security, the cultural divisiveness panel focused on developing a change in attitudes toward other cultures, specifically Muslim and Arab communities.

“Cultural awareness is essential for all international action and I’m not talking just about military action,” Sandrock said. “We need to be culturally aware whether we are operating in another country or just travelling and the biggest question for the panel is ‘how do cultural differences become a security threat?’ To call our operations in Muslim or Arab regions a clash of cultures is unacceptable. We need to get away from that mindset and work toward gaining a mutual understanding.”

The afternoon panel discussions included Alliance responses to irregular warfare, NATO and EU as strategic partners, and how Alliance transformation could be the key to success in a changing security environment.

The discussion on NATO and EU partnership was led by Dr. Simon Serfaty, a senior professor of U.S. foreign policy at ODU.

Serfaty said both organisations have great strengths and a partnership is necessary for future global security.

“The question is not what can NATO do for EU, nor is it about what EU can do for NATO,” Serfaty said. “The question is what can NATO and EU do together? NATO can benefit from EU civilian engineers and reconstruction experts and EU could benefit from NATO’s military power.”

Following a discussion panel review, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation UK Royal Navy Adm. Sir Mark Stanhope gave the seminar’s closing remarks.

Stanhope referred to the day’s topics as tasks for NATO, and spoke about how far NATO has evolved in its transformation.

“Some of our challenges will be difficult to solve, but to look at just how far we’ve come since the Berlin Wall came down — we have refocused, we are reorganising,” Stanhope said. “We have come an enormous way.”

SACT

Continued from page 4

The JFTC is not yet at full capacity and is operating out of temporary facilities loaned by the Polish government. NATO has awarded a contract for the construction of permanent facilities, which will include state-of-the-art classrooms and computer networking. Poland is building an adjacent hotel to house visiting NATO staffs.

“It couples very nicely with what the Joint Warfare Centre is doing in Stavanger,” Smith said about the JFTC’s mission compared to that of NATO’s similar facility hosted in Norway. “The two are tied nicely together to be able to train higher headquarters staffs as well as component staffs in how we do modern warfare using the latest technology in command and control and distributed learning,” he said.

The visit to Poland included a guided tour of Warsaw that focused on the total devastation suffered by the city during World War II. The general also laid a wreath at Poland’s Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where, in addition to the anonymous remains of a soldier, are kept soil samples from all the main battlefields where Poles have died.
NORFOLK, Va. – Senior enlisted leaders from 16 NATO Nations and one Partnership for Peace nation met at Allied Commander Transformation headquarters to discuss the future of the non-commissioned officer, or NCO, in NATO.

NATO has been undergoing a transformation to change from a regional defence alliance to a force for projecting stability globally. The changes involved in this transformation affect the entire organisation, from the most senior members to the most junior.

“It’s not the old NATO, a defence against the big bear that may be coming,” said Canadian Forces Lt. Gen. Michel Maisonneuve, SACT HQ chief of staff, during a speech to the symposium attendees. “The new NATO’s mission is to bring stability to the globe. Developing standards for NCOs is an essential part of developing the new NATO.”

The first two days of the International Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Symposium consisted of briefings from the various branch heads at ACT. This gave the attendees a working knowledge of the process of transforming NATO, said U.S. Navy Master Chief Steve Wacker, ACT’s command master chief.

“During the symposium, each of the branch heads briefed us,” said Wacker. “It was great for us to get an idea of what we’re doing ACT, transformation-wise. And we also got a chance to provide input directly to the branches.”

After the briefings, the senior enlisted leaders broke into syndicates to discuss the work that had been completed since the first meeting three years ago. According to U.K. Royal Navy Warrant Officer Vic Parsons, command warrant officer for the Second Sea Lord and Naval Home Command, that work provides an excellent place to start from when modernising the NATO NCO.

“The work of the last three years provides us a very positive foundation for what we’re doing now,” said Parsons. “We feel that it’s important to have standards for the most junior NCOs as well as the senior NCOs. This process has allowed us the chance to contribute positively to the creation of these standards. Now that we’ve had an input, we must see how we can implement the standards with our nations and get the nations’ inputs, as well.”

Many nations are undergoing their own transformations, having recognised the need for change in the new Alliance and the growing challenges the old ways of operating are facing. This is a good opportunity to improve our forces’ interoperability by working together to transform from the start, said Hungarian Army Warrant Officer Tibor Bogdan, command sergeant major of the Hungarian Defence Forces.

“To be truly interoperable, we need to start from the same base,” he said. “We need to be able not just to understand each other, but understand each other in the field. When we work together now, the different nations have different rules and different ways of doing things. We have to unify our standards; if we can’t do that, we can’t work together properly.”

“Everyone is looking over their standards; they are old and they don’t work anymore,” added Estonian Army Master Sgt. Siim Saliste from the Estonian Land Forces Headquarters. “We are all dealing with the same problems. We can use this symposium to push our NCOs to develop. It’s important for us to understand the standards at the NCO level.”

Perhaps the most visible effects of transformation are new command processes such as effects-based approach to operations and increasing equipment interoperability using technology such as the radio frequency identification devices and friendly forces trackers, it’s important to focus on achieving interoperability among the soldiers, sailors and airmen operating the equipment and making the decisions as well, said Maisonneuve.

“I think of the foundation of the military as the soldiers and airmen,” he said to the senior enlisted leaders. “The officers are the roof, and we need walls to keep it all together, and that’s you.”

Coming together to discuss the future of the NCO in NATO is an important first step in the process toward transforming and modernising the Alliance. The attendees agree that the way forward is to bring this information to their nations’ militaries and to continue meeting and working together.

“We got a lot of answers to our questions here,” said Saliste. “We need to do this more often and involve more people. Many of the nations are developing their NCOs. This symposium helps us know when we’re on the right path.”
NATO School METT visits Algeria

REGHAIA, Algeria – At the request of Algeria’s Ministry of Defence, the NATO School conducted a training mission at the Air Defence School in Réghaia May 13 through 17 to provide the latest information about NATO’s policy, doctrine and ongoing operations.

More than 40 officers from the Algerian Popular National Army, to include the army, air force, air defence, navy and gendarmerie attended the training.

On the first day of the training session, Chief of the Department for Operations and Training Gen. Amar Amrani welcomed the members of the NATO School Mobile Education and Training Team.

In his opening remarks Amrani mentioned the importance of confidence building and cooperation between NATO and its Mediterranean partners.

After Amrani’s opening remarks, the NATO School Director Military Cooperation Branch Hungarian Air Force Col. András Ujj said the NATO School did not come to instruct but to share information and promote understanding amongst the Algerian students.

The training programme comprised a broad selection of general NATO information lectures. These lectures were given by members of the NATO School faculty and other subject matter experts from various NATO agencies.

Algeria is one of the seven non-NATO nations that participate in the Mediterranean Dialogue programme. Other member nations are Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The Mediterranean Dialogue was initiated in 1994 and reflects the Alliance’s view that security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean. It is an integral part of NATO’s adaptation to the post-Cold War security environment, as well as an important component of the Alliance’s policy of outreach and cooperation. The Mediterranean Dialogue’s overall aim is to contribute to regional security and stability, achieve better mutual understanding and dispel any misconception about NATO among Dialogue countries.

The NATO School plays a key role in the operational education and training of officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians from NATO, Partnership for Peace, Mediterranean Dialogue and other nations.

The school conducts its programmes in a multinational environment through 78 different courses and a staff representing 24 nations. Nearly 10,000 individuals from more than 50 nations visit the school annually as course members, conference attendees, and supporting speakers.

Supporting speakers include general and flag officers, ambassadors, state secretaries and ministers. Mobile Education and Training Teams are the core part of the NATO School outreach programme. Last year, the NATO School METTs trained 750 students from Albania, Austria, Belarus, Croatia, France, Italy, Russia, and Ukraine.

New harbour defences demonstrated

NAC visits NURC, watches simulated attack

NATO HQ Public Information Office

New technologies for defending harbours against terrorist attacks were demonstrated to Alliance decision-makers during a visit to NATO’s Undersea Research Centre in La Spezia, Italy, April 4.

The North Atlantic Council, made up of the Permanent Representatives of the 26 NATO member countries, travelled to La Spezia to witness a simulated attack against a naval station.

Defending against terrorists

“The presence here today of the North Atlantic Council reflects the importance of the work that the NATO Undersea Research Center is undertaking in meeting new security challenges,” said NATO Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Alessandro Minuto Rizzo.

The mock attack put to the test some of the new technologies being developed by NATO to protect harbours against possible terrorist attacks.

These include sensor-nets, electro-optical detectors, rapid reaction capabilities and unmanned underwater vehicles.

The technologies are being developed as part of NATO’s Defence Against Terrorism Programme of Work. Italy is leading the work on the protection of harbours and ships, with support from the NURC.

A total of 10 cutting-edge counter-terrorist technologies are being developed under the NATO DAT programme.

Centre of maritime research

During the visit, Ambassadors were briefed on the work of the Centre, which is where the Alliance’s scientists develop new ways of addressing underwater threats, such as submarines and mines, and where they research other aspects of maritime warfare.

“Issues such as port protection, undersea reconnaissance and expeditionary operations support are all critical to an Alliance that is transforming to meet new security challenges in new ways and in new places.”

Ambassador Alessandro Minuto Rizzo
NATO Deputy Secretary General
NATO School under new leadership


As the NATO School commandant, Tabak commands a faculty and staff representing 23 different NATO and Partnership for Peace nations, and is responsible for all aspects of NATO School’s operation.

A qualified joint specialty officer, he has held a variety of command and staff positions in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

He most recently commanded the Marine Corps Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan.

Prior to commanding Camp Fuji, Tabak served as the United States European Command J35, Chief of Crises and Contingency Plans. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1979 and was commissioned through United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate Course in 1982.

The ceremony was supported by a German Honour Platoon from Murnau, the German Music Corps from Ulm, the Drum Platoon from Prem and the Black Powder Gunners from Urspring.

The NATO School teaches classes about joint operations, policy, weapons of mass destruction, and intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance.