

## Navy Reservists Host First-Ever NATO Joint Observer/Trainer Seminar in Battle Creek

By LCDR T. R. Shaw, USNR  
SAC-T, Det. 113 Public Affairs Officer

**B**attle Creek Air National Guard Base, MI – NATO’s transformation took a huge step forward recently with the help of Navy Reservists. Supreme Allied Command-Transformation, Det. 113 of Battle Creek, MI, hosted a seminar on 12-13 February designed to create a Reserve team of qualified observers/trainers to support upcoming NATO exercises and assist in the Global War on Terrorism.

This first-ever joint-coalition event proved to be an exciting and informative weekend of active duty and reserve force integration, marking a new era of joint interoperability and cooperation in NATO’s transformation mission.

Navy Reservists assigned to NATO and other Navy commands from throughout the United States, along with other Army and Marine Corps officers and Air National Guardsmen desiring to improve their understanding of NATO, came together in Battle Creek to learn how to be effective observers and exercise trainers. Reservists will be taking on a much larger and more visible role in observing and evaluating exercises and improving doctrine and practices as NATO’s transformation progresses.

The Reservists joined with active duty and international officer instructors from SAC-T Headquarters and U.S. Joint Warfighting Center (JWFC) in Norfolk and NATO’s Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) in Stavanger, Norway.

JWC annually hosts four major exercises which SAC-T Reservists support, the largest being a Europe-wide exercise certifying the NATO Response Force. Two of the four exercises provide specific training for NATO’s International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission deploying to Afghanistan supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

“This is the Navy Reserve of the future, the way ahead if you will,” remarked CDR Eric Jabs, SAC-T Exercise and Operational Support Officer in Norfolk. “I was floored by the integration, value, and professionalism of the observer/trainer training. It truly illustrates the future of our Navy Reserve – a joint/combined conference, held in an Air National Guard facility, training for a NATO mission. And all this was completely planned and executed by a drilling Reserve unit,” he said.

Jabs presented an overview of NATO’s mission to Iraq which included how to prepare yourself and your people for deployment to the Global War on Terrorism. “All Navy Reservists can expect to be called to serve in the next six years. Seminars like this are an excellent way to train everyone, and extremely beneficial to readiness,” Jabs added.

Other instructors included staff officers of NATO’s JWC in Stavanger, Norway: Royal Air Force Wing Commander John Turner, Chief of Concept Development and Experimentation,



**CAPT Cal Bagby, USNR, Commanding Officer, Supreme Allied Command-Transformation, (SAC-T) Det. 113 welcomes students to NATO Observer/Trainer Training which was conducted at Air National Guard Base Battle Creek, MI, 12-13 Feb. 2005. The event brought together nearly 70 Reservists from seven SAC-T Dets from the U.S. and other Navy Reserve units from Joint Forces Command and Readiness Command Midwest as well as Army, Marine Corps, and Air National Guardsmen who support NATO. The first-ever event included instructors from NATO’s U. S. Headquarters and Joint Warfighting Center in Norfolk, VA, and international officers from NATO’s Joint Warfare Center in Stavanger, Norway. (Photo by LCDR T. R. Shaw, USNR, SAC-T Det. 113 Public Affairs Officer)**

and Royal Air Force Squadron Leader Jeffrey Collier, Observer/Trainer and Operational Planning Process Specialist. They presented programs on specifics of NATO exercises, procedures and doctrine, and briefed Reservists on the role and function of the JWC. Army Lt. Col. Jim Wetzel, of the JWFC in Norfolk presented the majority of the instruction, focusing on specific exercise tools, techniques, and processes including the U.S. perspective on NATO exercises.

“I was pleased to see the Joint Warfighting Center and Joint Forces Command represented here. There are many differences in how the U.S. and NATO conduct exercises,” Turner said. “In NATO, the basic difference is that doing anything takes the

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**CAPT Bagby is seen with course instructors (L-R) Royal Air Force Squadron Leader, Jeff Collier, of Joint Warfare Centre; Army Lt. Col. Jim Wetzel and Marine Corps Lt. Col. Rich Loehne both of Joint Warfighting Center in Norfolk; and Royal Air Force Wing Commander, John Turner, of JWC. The event brought together nearly 70 Reservists from seven SAC-T Dets. from across the U.S. and other Navy Reserve units from Joint Forces Command and Readiness Command Midwest as well as Army, Marine Corps, and Air National Guardsmen who support NATO. The group is seen in front of an A-10 Warthog of the Michigan ANG 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing which has supported several NATO operations in Eastern Europe. (Photo by LCDR T. R. Shaw, USNR, SAC-T Det. 113 Public Affairs Officer)**

for Reserve integration and support to NATO,” Bagby said. “I couldn’t be happier with the success of this week-end. It speaks volumes about the relevance and talent Reservists bring to NATO,” he added.

All of the training took place at Battle Creek’s Air National Guard Base, home of the ANG’s 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing flying the A-10 Thunderbolt. The 110<sup>th</sup> has been frequently deployed to support recent NATO operations in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. The Navy Reserve is forging a relationship with the ANG to share facilities and combine training efforts as the military moves toward more future joint operations and activities. “Events such as this are the direction the Navy is heading. We are proud to be trailblazers for this type of joint effort and cooperation,” Bagby said.

consensus of 26 nations. I especially found great value in the flow of discussions with the Reservists. It wasn’t just us standing there delivering presentations. It has been a pleasure to come here and do this course for Reservists,” he added.

Turner’s colleague, Jeff Collier, echoed his sentiments. “We’re here as mentors, I prefer that title over trainers; we are here to give our experience, guide and facilitate,” he said. “Initially, I was skeptical that our coming here would provide much of a service; however, since being here, I’ve learned a lot, especially from JWFC and all the Reservists. We need to follow through with this because, after seeing the past and looking at the future, there are certain ways we can better cooperate with one another,” Collier said.

The joint training seminar was organized and hosted by CAPT Cal Bagby, Commanding Officer, SAC-T, Det. 113 and his unit in Battle Creek who drill at Battle Creek’s ANG Base. Other SAC-T Reservists present were from Buffalo; Kansas City; Spokane; Salt Lake City; Bessemer, Alabama; and Washington, DC. Reservists representing EASTLANT and SOUTHLANT were also in attendance, along with Michigan Army and Air National Guardsmen and many other Navy and Marine Corps Reservists from throughout Readiness Command Midwest.

“This joint training seminar is a huge step in the transformation of NATO and an outstanding opportunity



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*Commander Tom Daggart, a Naval Reservist who has judged many science fairs, says, "It's a great way to show Navy pride and work with a great bunch of kids . . . it has been the most fulfilling work I have done in 13 years in the Naval Reserve!"*

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