

## Austrian Officer Cadets of the Theresian Military Academy visiting the Czech Republic's University of Defence in Brno



From 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 a delegation of 40 Austrian Officer Cadets of the Theresian Military Academy (TMA) paid a grateful visit to the Czech University of Defence (UoD) in Brno. This delegation consisted of all semesters of the TMA (class of Hauptmann Hermann Kirchner/5<sup>th</sup> semester, class of Hackher zu Hart/3<sup>rd</sup> semester and class of Nova/1<sup>st</sup> semester). They were accompanied by LtCol Dr. Harald Gell and LtCol Mag. Rudolf Jaksch who are officers of the TMA's institute for basic officer training.

After a very warm welcome at the UoD in Brno the Austrian delegation received its twin-bedded rooms which fulfil the European-standard-requirements. A pretty detailed introduction, concerning the Czech officer training programme and the UoD in Brno as such, was given by Col Jaroslav Prucha, Vice-Director for external relations, to inform the Austrian Officer Cadets about the most important scientific achievements and studying conditions all Czech Officer Cadets are confronted with.

The rest of the evening was organized as "free time" for everybody in Brno. Under the well-organized and excellent guidance of Eva Ludvikova, an attendee of the UoD in Brno, the Austrian delegation discovered the inner city of Brno. All Cadets and visitors of the delegation spent a very nice time at a Christmas market in Brno where they could enjoy the spirit of upcoming Christmas. Moreover they noticed a huge amount of similarities between Brno and Austrian cities like Vienna and Wr. Neustadt.

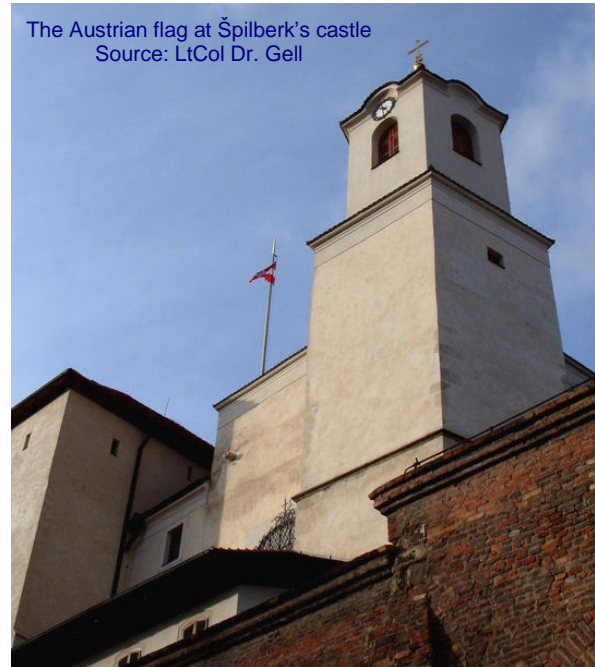
The next morning they visited fortress Špilberk





in Brno and the battlefield of Austerlitz where Napoleon defeated Austrian and Russian troops. After having had lunch it was time to start the return journey to the TMA in Wr. Neustadt/Austria.

These two days extremely supported the approach and the cooperation-process between the TMA in Wr. Neustadt and the UoD in Brno. The Austrian Officer Cadets as well as the Austrian officers were able to establish relations and connections to their Czech colleagues and new-won friends. Furthermore all of them, Austrians as well as Czechs recognized the importance and necessity of a closer networking and internationalization regarding multinational European Officer Training.



The Austrian flag at Špilberk's castle  
Source: LtCol Dr. Gell

Nowadays such meetings which for sure will enhance the interoperability become more and more important. European Union Member States should profit on each level by each other. In recent times, not only because of the establishment of "European Union Battle Groups", there is a need and room for improvement of harmonizing military training regarding military leaders.



French soldier in original uniform in Austerlitz  
Source: LtCol Dr. Gell

This trip for a visit to the Czech University of Defence in Brno has to be seen as a master example for enhancing relation among military institutions and to improve interoperability. The participation on voluntary basis of high ranking Officers and Officer Cadets of the Theresian Military Academy over the weekend to Brno underlines the willingness to improve comradeship and to establish long-lasting cooperation among both institutions.

Officer Cadet Markus WOLF  
student of the class Hackher zu Hart/Theresian Military Academy