



## First ERASMUS Semester exchange with Swedish National Defence College

From 21<sup>st</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 2011 two Cadets from the Swedish National Defence College absolved one Semester at the Theresian Military Academy. The idea for this exchange was born during the work, Sweden and Austria does in the Implementation Group of the “European initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by ERASMUS”.

Throughout these 12 weeks their tasks were to pass a language proficiency exam according to STANAG 6001, to write a Bachelor-Thesis and to defend it.

Cadet Johansson did his conscription in the artillery, went to infantry school and is going to work at a mechanized battalion after graduation. The topic of his thesis was “Counterinsurgency, Consequences for Swedish and Austrian Infantry Companies’ Organization”.

Cadet Österlund did his conscription as a coastal ranger, worked as an NCO, went to infantry school and is going to work at the command and control regiment after graduation. In his thesis he worked on “Improving the understanding and implementation of Psychological Operations within the Armed Forces”.



**Cadet Österlund defends his thesis – Source: TMA**

Based on experienced officers’ knowledge and lessons learned, both theses give excellent solutions how to improve the understanding and the importance of COIN and PsyOps for ongoing missions abroad.

During the last week of the Cadets’ stay in Austria they had to defend their theses in front of a commission which consisted of Col(GS) Mag. Wiedner, Mag. Thuller and LtCol Dr. Gell, who was also the tutor for their theses. They were to present their

theses and to answer unexpected questions. Both Cadets performed great.

After the Cadets had passed all exams they were ready to receive the respective



certificates from the Commandant of the Theresan Military Academy, MajGen Sinn, on the last day.

Because of the experiences of this semester exchange it is worth to continue.

**MajGen Sinn presents the certificates – Source: TMA**