

Written by Inci Kucukaksoy, JWC PAO  
Monday, 12 September 2011 13:45

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On Friday, 9 September 2011, U.S. Air Force Major Peter F. Olsen, Commander 426th Air Base Squadron, Stavanger, Norway, held a Remembrance Ceremony at the Squadron's Community Activity Centre, to mark the 10th Anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on America as well as to honour and celebrate the resilience of individuals, families, and communities across the world.

French Army Major General Jean Fred Berger, Commander Joint Warfare Centre, U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Steven J. DePalmer, Chief of Staff, and Norwegian Army Brigadier Gunnar E. Gustavsen, Adviser to Commander Joint Warfare Centre, as well as many other staff attended the solemn Commemoration and Remembrance Ceremony in Jatta. The sequence of events started with a short prayer, which was then followed by remarks from Major Olsen.

"The 10th Anniversary of September 11 is a milestone for the United States; a moment to reflect on the events that took place ten years ago," Major Olsen said in his opening speech.

"Having spent five of the last ten years living in Europe, I know that September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks not only affected my Nation, but changed the world and our relationships in it. Citizens of 90 countries were among the 2,993 souls lost that day. The attacks united us with our fellow democratic Nations against an ideology of radical extremism. As we reflect on the

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horrific day that marked the beginning of our struggle to better secure the world from these threats, we honour those that died in the attack, the heroic efforts of emergency response personnel and the resilience of the survivors."

The ceremony highlighted that September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States were not a uniquely American event; as in their aftermath the world has witnessed at least a dozen large scale and brutally efficient attacks by extremists throughout Europe and Asia. Most recently, on 22 July 2011, our Host Nation of Norway was attacked by an extremist. The ceremony also underlined that as we confront such senseless and horrific attacks, our commitment to promote and defend the shared values of tolerance, understanding and mutual respect quickly emerge as a common sentiment.

Brigadier General Steven J. DePalmer also provided remarks during the ceremony where he expressed his compassion and solidarity for the victims of the terrorist acts. He also paid tribute to the soldiers in harm's way dealing with active conflicts, adding that we must also remember and honour those died in the fighting that has followed September 11. Brigadier General DePalmer also challenged the audience to think ahead another 10 years and decide what they can do to help prevent similar attacks.

### **Recollections of the 9/11 attacks**

At the end of the ceremony there was a special presentation about the terror attacks on America a decade ago, which demonstrated extraordinary images as well as the unique memories of some of the Jatta community members on that day. Each slide highlighted how September 11 marked our collective memory and changed the world; they reminded us, as vivid as yesterday, our profound state of horror and disbelief, while uniting us all in remembrance and reflection once again.

# Remembrance Ceremony marks the 10th Anniversary of September 11 terrorist attacks - Joint Warfare Ce

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