

Base Support in Jåttå: A Variety of Support Functions and Services

Alongside its support to NATO exercises, the Base Support Branch, in conjunction with the host nation Norway, provides the Joint Warfare Centre with a comprehensive support structure available 24 hours a day, all year round.

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Variety is a key word for the Base Support Branch, both when it comes to tasks and to the type of personnel — our most valuable resource. In addition to NATO military and civilian personnel, the branch is fortunate to have a number of local wage rate staff employed by Norway. Our personnel represent the continuity and specific know-how essential to any organization and, without doubt, they are the main reason why the branch is capable of delivering such a high level of support and services. The Base Support Branch consists of the following organizational entities that serve to accomplish the Joint Warfare Centre's (JWC) mission:

Security Section: The Security Section is responsible for implementing NATO security policies, advises on security issues, including information assurance and force protection for permanent staff, visitors, and exercise participants. The section maintains close relationships with civilian and military host nation security authorities. The section also cooperates with the Norwegian Guard Force and works closely with Real Life Support and Allied Command Counter-Intelligence (ACCI).

Supply Section: The Supply Section is the main logistics asset for the JWC and ensures the availability of functional furniture, equipment, and office supplies for the permanent staff, the Communications and Information Systems (CIS) Support Unit Stavanger, and Allied Command Operation's (ACO)

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Northern European Command (NEC) Command and Control Information System (CCIS) Systems Support Centre at Kolsås. The section has undergone several structural changes over the years and now includes property accounting, stock management and the warehouse. Upon the establishment of the JWC, the Supply Section was co-located with host nation military units at the Soma compound, but in 2017, the JWC became the sole occupant. As a result of Soma closing, the Supply Section moved temporarily to Sola Air Station in early 2020. A new warehouse is planned inside the Jättå compound and will be completed in 2023.

Reprographics Office: The Reprographics Office is responsible for all unclassified, classified, and mission essential printouts and graphics designs at the JWC. Books, booklets, pamphlets, business cards, exercise documents, posters, plaques, farewell packages, certificates, cards, name tags, calendars, phone charts, oversized documents, and map symbols are some of the many products. The office is also responsible for developing/designing corporate identities of the JWC-led exercises, as well as community information posters.

Site Management Section: The Site Management Section ensures that the JWC facilities are fit for purpose, meaning that the JWC can meet all NATO training requirements and the set level of ambition, now and in the future. The Centre must be capable of hosting the permanent staff, the visitors, and up to 1,200 exercise participants whenever required.

ABOVE

Left: The Base Support Branch Chief, Commander (SG) Jone Iversen
Right: The Head of the Security Section, Lieutenant Colonel Børge Solberg, with guards

BELOW

Drivers at Camp Madla



One of the main efforts in this is to identify necessary facility upgrades and improvements that specify the JWC's requirements and then closely monitor their realization. Site Management's main partner is the host nation Norway, who is responsible for the overall project management and the practical implementation of all infrastructure projects and maintenance works. In a common effort, Site Management and host nation strive to make sure that the JWC gets what it requires, and that everything is compliant with existing and ever-changing technological and legal demands.

The JWC and Norway are presently in the process of executing several extensive NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP) projects, which were approved by the North Atlantic Council (NAC). The most important ones are the comprehensive refurbishment and upgrade of the A to D blocks (in-rock training facility), the new G-block (improved in-processing facilities and upgraded media simulation facilities), and the warehouse/office building for the Supply Section. Other projects include the restoration of canteen facilities, one of the two JWC auditoriums, and the midlife update and modernization of existing office buildings. Several of the projects have already started, and the plan is for most of them to be completed in the near future.

Host Nation Support

The JWC depends very much on host nation support, which includes accommodation, transportation, security and safety, facilities support, and morale and welfare support to the JWC.

Through accommodation services, for example, the host nation provides military accommodation at Camp Madla for external exercise participants. Through transportation services, the host nation provides drivers, planners, and vehicles for the JWC's permanent staff, as well as for exercises and other major events. The host nation provides force protection, security and safety control 24 hours a day, and carries out maintenance, renovations, and refurbishment to meet the requirements. In addition, the host nation is responsible for most of the NSIP projects. Finally, through the morale and welfare office, Host Nation contributes to many different areas, including essential support to our staff and their families.

The continued improvements and reorganization of the branch, combined with ongoing and future NSIP projects, will clearly improve the working conditions for the JWC. The realization of these projects will enable the Base Support Branch to provide even better support to everyone at the JWC, and to our training participants. The projects can only be achieved through close cooperation with our great colleagues from the host nation. ✦

Refurbishment and Upgrade of the A to D Blocks

With this project, NATO is investing approximately 40 million euros, or 400 million NOK.

RIGHT, CLOCKWISE

Commander JWC, Major General Piotr Malinowski, with the Commanding Officer at Camp Madla, Navy Captain Frode E. Staurset (photo by Andre Meling); the Base Support team; reprographics staff; the construction site of the new G-block; Jørn Magne Gundersen, Assistant Storekeeping and Distribution

Lieutenant Colonel Audun Kjelkenes

was the former Head of the JWC Base Support Branch. He previously served in the Norwegian National Joint Headquarters and deployed to Lebanon, Syria and Afghanistan.

Commander (SG) Jone Iversen

is the JWC Base Support Branch Head. In his 36-year career he has worked in logistics and as the Head of Morale and Welfare, Housing and Family Services in the Norwegian Armed Forces. He deployed to Lebanon and Iraq.

