

HISTORY

Allied Land Forces Central Europe (LANDCENT), Allied Air Forces Central Europe (AIRCENT) and Allied Naval Forces Central Europe (NAVDEPCENT) were formally established in Fontainebleau, France on 2 April 1951. The nucleus of these new NATO Headquarters came from the Western Union Headquarters controlling land, air and sea forces under the overall command of Field Marshal Montgomery. The Western Union Organisation included five nations: Belgium, France, Luxemburg, The Netherlands and The United Kingdom. When NATO was established Canada and the United States joined the nations contributing forces to the Central Region.

In July 1953 a new Headquarters was established in Fontainebleau to control the three existing HQ's, under the name of HQ Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT). Following the signing of the Paris agreements on 23 October 1954, Germany started to assign forces to NATO, placing them under AFCENT Command. From then on AFCENT was commanded by a French General, Landcent by a German General and Aircent by a British Air Marshal.

Upon the withdrawal of France from the military organisation of NATO in 1966, the existing Headquarters in Fontainebleau began a reorganisation to combine into one entity. On 1 July 1966 General J. A. Graf Kielmansegg, who until then had been COMLANDCENT, was appointed as successor to the French General Crepin to command the unified Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe, which now directly controls two Army Groups and two Tactical Air Forces.

In December 1966 the new Headquarters started to move to Brunssum, The Netherlands, and by mid-March 1967 was established and had assumed, from its new location, operational command and control of all Allied land and air forces between the Baltic and the Alps.

PROGRAMME

- 14.45 All guests will have taken their places
- 15.00 Arrival of their Excellencies, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defence and the Governor of Limburg, in company with Commander in Chief Allied Forces Central Europe.

General Salute immediately followed by

Fly Past

Inspection of National Contingents

Speech by his Excellency the Minister of Defence

Speech by his Excellency the Governor of Limburg

Speech by the Commander in Chief Allied Forces Central Europe

National Anthem of The Netherlands

Reception

Music : Fanfare Korps Limburgse Jagers
conducted by Kapelmeester Bouguenon

General Graf Kielmansegg
Commander in Chief Allied Forces Central Europe
requests the pleasure of your company
at a reception following
the Headquarters Inauguration Ceremony
on Thursday, the first of June 1967

Dress
As for the Inauguration Ceremony

*Colonel C. D. M. Peal, Senior British Liaison Officer
to Headquarters, Central Army Group, and to
Headquarters, United States Army, Europe and Seventh Army
and Mrs. Peal*

request the pleasure of the Company of

General & Mrs. J. H. Polk

*at a Cocktail Party being held to celebrate
The Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen
on Friday the 9th of June
at the Officers Club, Patrick Henry Village
6:30 to 8:30 pm*