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The Global Order Project reached out to the NATO School Oberammergau (NSO) to request a visit to their facility, to discuss the topic of ‘security in the global order’. We hoped to discuss, with one of the world’s most notable collective security organisation, the concerns and methods that they consider to be relevant in the realm of securitisation. Our aim is to broaden our understanding for the topic in order to prepare for our conference in June 2018. The following report summarises our excursion, which included a series of presentations and discussions with the NATO School Deputy Commandant & Chief of Staff, course coordinators and other representatives.

We were received at the NSO by a representative of the School that acted as our liaison for the course of our visit. After shortly getting acquainted with the facility, we were ushered into one of the classrooms for our first presentation with the Deputy Commandant, Colonel Schreckinger. He provided us with an overview of the facility, the make-up of the student demographic, course instructors and assisting staff in addition to an introduction to the academic and formal structures of the School. Following the Deputy Commandant’s presentation, we received a short session from another representative regarding the history of the NSO and the historic relevance of the region of Oberammergau, which was previously a German military base during the Second World War. An interesting insight to the historic context within which the NSO was formed became the crux of our second presentation.

Following a short coffee break, we had the opportunity to receive presentations from three course coordinators that are responsible for organising and heading three out of a total of eight academic tracks that the NSO has to offer to its students. The first one was held by the Hybrid, Influence and Effects Department (HIED), Lt. Colonel Bigot, who presented us with an overview of courses that the NSO offers. The importance of tactical and strategic, in addition to operational, elements of missions were highlighted followed by a discussion on civil-military cooperation and the courses focused around it.

After a very interesting presentation, Commander Nieto presented his academic track, Intel by relating to his experiences in the Navy. A discussion on the differences between Intel and Information, the collection and analysis processes in addition to contemporary concerns of Intel gathering through social media channels and modern cooperative strategies formed the main part of our presentation. The discussion revolved around the challenges and benefits modern technology offers to Intel collection, specifically in the NATO context.

Our last presentation was held by Lt. Colonel Nowack, who headed the Department of Cooperative Security (COSEC). He laid emphasis on the importance of having a diverse demographic of students attending the NSO in order to teach and develop the NATO understanding of securitisation through cooperation. Thereby, the structure of NATO was also discussed through the lens of cooperation between member and partner states and the necessity of a common understanding on security through

policies and operations was highlighted. Our discussion revolved around contextualising NATO in the global context and the attitudes that it adopts in order to deal with threats that it faces in contemporary times.

After a very interesting morning with comprehensive presentations from the representatives and course coordinators, we thanked our hosts and bid them farewell. We were able to get a keen insight into the securitisation concerns and strategies that the NSO holds to be important and an overview of the teaching methods that they deploy to prepare this students to tackle such concerns.

*We would like to extend our gratitude, in this report, to the presentation holders and our liaison with a special thanks to the Director of Public Affair, Captain Hesse who coordinated with us and made it possible for us to avail this opportunity to visit the NSO. Additionally, a special thanks goes to our External Relations team for coordinating and preparing for this excursion.*

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