

European partners in terror fight to speak

Afghanistan focus of panel

BY AMY SOWDER
asowder@news-press.com



BEYER



LOHHUIS



MARTIN



MOSCHELLA

Four men. Four nations. One common cause.

They'll form a panel to give their perspectives on the conflicts in the Middle East — focusing on Afghanistan — at a European American Network luncheon open to the public Oct. 19 at the Bonita Bay Golf and Country Club.

They are senior national representatives, part of the Coalition of Nations that works with the U.S. Central Command in Tampa:

- Brigadier General Juer-gen A. Beyer, Germany
- Brigadier General Herman Oude Lohhuis, The Netherlands
- Rear Admiral Patrick Martin, France
- Brigadier General Rosario Sivestro Moschella, Italy

The network hosts monthly networking luncheons on the third Tuesday of the month.

"We're really trying to bring in speakers and topics that are of substance so that people can know what's going on in the European market as well as the American market," said network president Trish Leonard.

The organization will have a toy drive in December. In January, it will have its first Small European Business of the Year Award ceremony and celebrate its 10th year as a network.

Naples immigration attorney Norma Henning is the chairperson of the speaker luncheon. She's also an honorary consul to Germany.

"It's an interesting group

IF YOU GO

What: A luncheon presentation on European Perspectives On The Fight Against Terror (concentration Afghanistan) hosted by the European American Network

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19

Where: Bonita Bay Golf and Country Club, 26660 Country Club Drive, Bonita Springs

Cost: \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers, who must pay in advance

RSVP: By Friday, Oct. 15 at by calling 941-244-3164, faxing 239-948-2842 or e-mail at info@europeanamericannetwork.org

of people. I think it will be good for anyone interested in international issues and what countries are doing in the fight against terror," Henning said. "I think that's on everyone's mind."

The United States began building the coalition Sept. 12, 2001, after the World Trade Center terrorist attack. Today, there are about 70 nations supporting the global fight against terrorism, according to the U.S. Central Command. To date, 21 nations have deployed more than 16,000 troops to the U.S. Central Command's region of responsibility.

"I think that generally, a lot of people in the U.S. think they are in this alone," Henning said. "They may be surprised at the number of other nations that are concerned about the same issues of

security, and they don't realize how much other nations are putting into this struggle."

In Afghanistan alone, coalition partners are contributing almost 8,000 troops to Operation Enduring Freedom and to the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul — making up more than half of the 15,000 non-Afghan forces in Afghanistan.

Contributions include providing vital intelligence, personnel, equipment and assets for use on the ground, air and sea. Members provided liaison teams, participated in planning, provided bases and granted over-flight permissions — as well as sizable contributions of humanitarian assistance.

With national and international partners, U.S. Central Command's mission is to promote cooperation among nations, respond to crises and deter or defeat state and non-state aggression and support development and reconstruction to establish the conditions for regional security, stability and prosperity, according to centcom.mil. The panelists at the luncheon will discuss the coalition in Tampa, what they do and how their countries contribute to the fight.

"They're very senior officers with a lot of knowledge and combat experience and administration experience," Henning said.