An annual report over 2011-2012 is not complete without a 'BIG THANK YOU" to our colleagues from The Philipines for organising a wonderful Annual AMI conference in Manilla/ Quezon.

The debate in The Netherlands over the budget for the Armed Forces has resulted in major financial cuts. These cuts are not only reflected in the operational area or in investments but are also influencing the number of personnel within the Armed Forces.

With a reduction of about 12.000 FTE a great social challenge for a Union of Military personnel like ACOM has arisen. How to best negotiate Social Plans for those that have to say goodbye to a job that was their life. The aim of ACOM is that the old employer (Defence) is responsible for a "work to work" scheme for those that are forced to depart.
The upcoming elections in September 2012 might result in additional major cuts in the years to come with major impact on the personnel.

On the other hand: ACOM is well prepared to understand that under the current financial restraints due to the financial crisis, Defence budgets cannot remain untouched. On the other hand, changes should be handled in a social way.
Decision makers and politicians should, apart from the budgetary cuts, reconsider the level of ambition of the Netherlands in the world.

ACOM is the full member from the Netherlands. The lay organisation "Nationaal Katholiek Thuisfront" (NKT) with ACOM, attends the annual Conference of AMI. Like in other years NKT has, amongst other activities, organised the annual Requiem and the Calvary on Good Friday.
NKT and other organisations have a historical role to play in organising the Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes. It appears that the average age of participants is rising, i.e. less youngsters and more 'veterans'.

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NLD-delegation:
Gerard Dijkers (ACOM)
Henk Nicolaye (ACOM)
Frank Marcus (NKT)
Jules Post (Representing Military Ordinariat) Chief Chaplain NLD Armed Forces

ACOM remains a committed member of AMI in conjunction with NKT and other organisations.

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