

MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST

Apart from numerous political, military and geographical reasons for establishing a new Corps and its Headquarters in Poland, the main one was the intention to accelerate the integration of the Polish Armed Forces into a multinational NATO structure and by this to foster the stability in Europe.

In July 1997 the decision was taken at the NATO summit in Madrid to invite the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland for membership in the organisation.

Thereafter, the Ministers of Defence of Denmark, Germany and Poland decided in Omulew, Poland, to establish a new Danish-German-Polish Corps. This Corps would be named Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) with its Headquarters located in Szczecin, Poland. The Headquarters "Allied Land Forces Schleswig-Holstein and Jutland" (LANDJUT) was to form the nucleus of this new command.

When, in autumn 1998, the Ministers of Defence of the three framework nations, i.e. Poland, Denmark and Germany, signed the Corps Convention forming a common corps, Poland was not a member of NATO yet, but the date of the country's accession (March 12th, 1999) had already been set. In retrospect, the early signing of this document turned out to be a wise step taken with foresight. As early as on September 18th, 1999, the three founding nations could hoist their flags in Szczecin, and the Corps Headquarters moved into the renovated buildings of the Baltic Barracks.

A lot has happened in Szczecin during the past nine years. MNC NE has become a big draw to many, in particular to the new NATO-members. Since April 2004, the flags of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been fluttering in the Headquarters. In January 2005 Slovakia joined Multinational Corps Northeast. Its neighbour – the Czech Republic sent their officers just a few months later, in October 2005. In November 2006, the United States joined the Corps. Finally, in July 2008, the Romanian flag was hoisted and Romania officially became the tenth nation of the Corps.

In terms of military achievements, during the exercise Compact Eagle in November 2005 the Corps completed the Full Operational Capability (FOC) test with outstanding results. Subsequently, it was officially approved and certified by the North Atlantic Council a NATO Deployable Headquarters.

In 2007 the MNC NE was contributing successfully to the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan and thereby proved its full operational capability in the real mission environment. The HQ MNC NE personnel as a Standing

Headquarters manned key positions at the composite Headquarters International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast, with its seat in Szczecin, Poland, serves as an important element of the security environment within this part of Europe. The establishment of the Corps in 1999 represents a significant step towards a deeper integration inside the NATO Alliance. Undoubtedly, multinational cooperation of already ten nations within the Baltic Barracks effectively contributes to common understanding of responsibilities for the European security and enables partnership among equals, sharing the same rights and burdens.

THE CREST OF MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST



The Crest of a military formation expresses its military affiliation through the intentional combination and use of colours and symbols. The Multinational Corps Northeast Crest reflects the formation's relationship to the respective nations and the location of its home garrison.

The blue background in the MNC NE Crest indicates fundamental bonds with NATO. The three waves stand for the Baltic Sea and its Approaches that connect the three nations originally contributing to the Corps. The Armed Forces of the three Framework Nations – Denmark, Germany and Poland – are symbolized by the three swords, which at the same time represent the close cooperation between these nations and their responsibility for common defence of their territories. The Griffon, which originates from Szczecin's coat of arms, indicates the MNC NE's affiliation with the region and the city of Szczecin, where the Headquarters is seated.