

Eagle's Eye

2008



NO 1

Exercise Crystal Eagle 2008 Field Newspaper

Friday 19th September, Wildflecken, Germany

An interview with Lieutenant General Zdzislaw Goral the Commander of the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) conducted by Major Sławomir Ratyński.

Maj. Sławomir Ratyński: Sir, have you been to Wildflecken before?

Lieutenant General Zdzislaw Goral: Yes, I have. The first time was as Commander of the 11th Mechanised Division from Zagan. Many things have changed since then, for better of course. The Army War-fighting Simulation Centre (AWSC) is a very interesting place, with an impressive history. Using the facilities and simulation systems available we can actually exercise all scenarios here.

S.R. One of the exercise objectives is to use lessons learned from the Corps' mission in ISAF composite headquarters in Afghanistan. Will this experience be incorporated during the exercise?

Z.G. For sure! Every single lesson the MNC NE personnel learned during their 6 months mission in Afghanistan will benefit us during this exercise as well as in the future. A lot of efforts have been put into making the command and control process run smoothly at all levels. We have already started using the knowledge we gained during the ISAF mission to improve e.g. operational procedures at brigade level and within all functional areas.

S.R. Has the exercise preparation process been conducted satisfactory?

Z.G. Yes, I am truly satisfied with the way my staff has planned, organised and executed the tasks given to them. From a personal perspective I can say, with great satisfaction, that the preparation of Exercise Crystal Eagle has been executed precisely and to the point. This applies to the whole preparation process: from the Initial Planning Conference, through the actual planning, the reconnaissance and to the series of conferences and seminars.

S.R. 1,200 soldiers from 18 nations in one place, sounds very impressive?

Z.G. That is right. This is a multinational exercise, with the aim to prepare the Corps' personnel and nominated formations to plan, conduct

and execute Peace Support Operations or Stabilising Operations any place around the world. These formations comprise 1st Estonian Infantry Brigade, the 37th German Armoured Infantry Brigade, the 1st Latvian Infantry Brigade, and the 7th Polish Coastal Defence Brigade. The role of our Corps is to act as Land Component Command during these types of operations.

S.R. The exercise is more than soldiers sitting in front of computers, maps and communication means. Has it also been a logistic challenge?

Z.G. It is a rare occasion, so we plan to celebrate it really solemnly. Together with Szczecin City Authorities, with whom we cooperate on a daily basis, we want to show our gratitude to the Szczecin Garrison Community. They warmly welcomed the Corps' personnel 9 years ago and have been supporting all Headquarters activities throughout that period. We also plan to have a so called "Open day" in the Baltic Barracks. I do hope that by then the Command Group has moved into the new staff facility under construction.

Changing attitudes

Z.G. The first logistic elements of the Command Support Brigade from Stargard Szczecinski, namely the 610th German Signal Battalion, the 100th Polish Signal Battalion, and the 104th Polish Support Battalion arrived in Wildflecken in the beginning of September. It was their responsibility to establish command posts, communication systems and other necessary elements for the exercise. And it is these units who will finish the exercise as the last ones.

S.R. How does the cooperation between the brigades work? Are there any communication problems?

Z.G. No, and I do not foresee any problems as we follow NATO standard operational procedures. There might be some language constraints; but these are minor issues, which for sure will not hamper achieving our goals.

S.R. Next year the Corps will celebrate its 10th Anniversary. What can we expect on that occasion?



Forget the exercise!

Forget the word „exercise” and start thinking about the coming days as an opportunity to take an operational approach. If we all treat this training activity as a real Peace Support Operation, then I am absolutely sure that the challenges we face will be accomplished. If we keep thinking in „the exercise mode”, I can ensure you that the final result will not be as satisfactory. Your mental approach plays an important role for our future success.

Wildflecken

Wildflecken is a municipality in the Bad Kissingen district, at the border of north-eastern Bavaria and southern Hesse. In 2005, its population was 3,285; the postal code is 97772. Wildflecken is in the picturesque Rhön hills and nature-park.



The town was integral to the Nazi régime as a large Waffen-SS training camp built in 1937. During World War II, the SS operated a forced worker camp for an ammunition factory; more than 4,000 forced workers from Poland, France and other occupied countries were worked to death; elements of the U.S. Army freed the forced workers in April 1945.

After 1951, its range served as a US Army training base operated by the 7th Army Training Command in Grafenwöhr, and it was home station for Armored (Mechanized) Infantry Battalions operating under the 19th (later 4th) Armored Group of V Corps. Until German sovereignty it also served as a base for Bundesgrenzschutz (border police) units. The Wildflecken Kaserne was decommissioned and transferred to the Bundeswehr in 1994.

Then, from April 1945 to 1951, the base was a displaced persons camp housing around 20,000 displaced persons (DPs), primarily Poles, operated by UN and US organization. A Polish cemetery holds the camp inhabitants who died during those five years.



Wildflecken Coat of arms



Administration

Country	Germany
State	Bavaria
Admin. region	Lower Franconia
District	Bad Kissingen
Mayor	Alfred Schrenck

Basic statistics

Area	77.56 km ² (29.9 sq mi)
Elevation	516 m (1693 ft)
Population	3,229 (31/12/2006)
Density	42 /km ² (108 /sq mi)

Other information

Time zone	CET/CEST (UTC+1/+2)
Licence plate	KG (old: BRK)
Postal code	97772
Area code	09745
Website	www.wildflecken.de
Coordinates	50°22'00"N 09°55'00"E / 50.366667, 9.916667

Many people thought this was the end of any military presence in the Rhön-Barracks. Even though a handful of German units moved to the buildings abandoned by the former US Military and Civilian Activity the final decision to continue military activities were rendered, when the Bundeswehr decided to station the "Army Warfighting Simulation Centre".

Voice from the crowd

What do you expect from this exercise....?



**Master Sergeant
Liis Raud
Estonia**

"This is not my first multinational exercise. Last year I was on exercise in Paderborn, Germany and this exercise is too different, but I expect that everything is going to be good."



**Lieutenant
Iwona Niedzwiecka-Jobda
Poland**

"I haven't been on mission abroad and I have always wanted to see the job and service on the mission so I hope I will gain more experience here."



**Staff Sergeant
Nadine Bertschat
Germany**

"It's interesting to compare other nations and I expect that I will gain more professional experience too."

37th German Brigade

Armoured Infantry Brigade (BDE) 37 is one of two brigades belonging to 13th Armoured Infantry Division. The BDE staff and one Battalion (BN) is based in the "Wettiner" barracks in Frankenberg (Saxony).



The BDE's mission is to train with the core focus of "leading the LANDOPs of various intensity with the ability to fight as the decisive element".

Furthermore the BDE has to begin with the gradual preparation for the 12-month deployment in Afghanistan (ISAF) from March 2009 till March 2010, and to continue the training in the use of contingent period.

The BDE consists of 7 BN and 1 company with 7000 soldiers.

History of the brigade:

Establishment of the Homeland Security Brigade 37 from the remains of the 7th Armored Division in Dresden on 01st April 1991.

1st January 1995 the Homeland Security Brigade 37 was renamed in Armoured Infantry Brigade 37 and was placed under NATO administration.

In June 1995 the Brigade moved from Dresden to Frankenberg.

Currently Brigadier General Jörg Vollmer is the commander of the 37 BDE.



Getting started

Five steps to a successful exercise

Step 1 Raise the flags



On Friday September 12th the flags of the 17 participating nations were raised by a multinational honor guard. The ceremony was the official welcome of all countries participating in the upcoming exercise: The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, The Great Britain, The Netherlands and The United States. Meanwhile Hungarian soldiers, the 18th country participating in the exercise have arrived.

After days of preparation in Wildflecken, Exercise Crystal Eagle has finally reached its launch state. The few hectic days before STARTEX were used to complete the final steps of the preparation phase. Here are the five steps which will bring our exercise to a successful outcome for you and your fellow soldiers.

Step 2 Rehearse before

It takes training to train. From Thursday the 11th an intensive pre-exercise called Exercise Rehearsal Training took place to facilitate smooth cooperation between HQ Multinational Corps Northeast the brigades from Estonia, Germany, Latvia and Poland as well as all Crisis Establishment and Emergency Establishment personnel. The training was focused on enhancing the skills of the brigade staff in planning, preparing, executing, commanding and evaluating Crisis Response, Post Conflict, and Peace Support Operations.



Step 3 Get heavenly support

On Sunday September 14th the pre-exercise training was put on hold for a few hours to facilitate an evening Church Service in the former Base Chapel. The religious service gathered a large audience of the faithful. As Bodo Winkler, a German military chaplain said. "I am here because I know people need to communicate with God from time to time. It helps. And everyone is invited for the next Sunday's Church Service".

Step 4 Good luck from the Commander

On the afternoon of Monday September 15th the former US Forces Movie Theater was used to familiarize the staffs of the four brigades and other exercise functional areas with the operational situation. Everyone present had the opportunity to learn what had happened within the first 45 days of the AUFOR (Auriga Forces) deployment. The briefings were concluded by the Corps Commander Lieutenant General Zdzislaw Goral who wished all exercise participants' lots of success.

**Step 5 Be soldiers**

One day before start of the exercise – on the morning of Wednesday September 17th – the Movie Theater was packed with a crowd of more than 600 soldiers. Seven well prepared presenters took the audience through the exciting details behind the monumental work carried out to prepare Crystal Eagle 2008. The Corps Commander Lieutenant General Zdzislaw Goral promised that the exercise would prove "both demanding and challenging but rewarding". Referring to the importance of making the right impression during the Distinguished Visitors Day, the general concluded his involving speech by the famous last words: "Be active, be clever, be soldiers".



All of us are interested in our past and it was the Commanding General MNC NE, Lieutenant General Zdzislaw Goral's personal concern to hold a wreath laying ceremony at the Polish Cemetery in the Rhön Barracks in Wildflecken which were shelter to 20000 Poles during the period 1945-1951. The Rhön Barracks were the biggest camp for all displaced persons in the American controlled area of the North Bavaria since they were not able to move back to Poland as the Russians occupied the Eastern part and there were no free flats, houses etc. in the Western part of Poland.

Visitors from Belgium

Zdzislaw Ostręga who was born in Cham, Germany in 1946 and who spent several months in the Rhön Barracks in 1947 with his parents and his brother attended this wreath laying ceremony with his daughter Deborah Ostręga. Both the father and



which supported the Ostręga family to retrace the history of their ancestors who immigrated to Belgium in 1947. Additionally, local media representatives invited for that event attended that solemn ceremony.

racks and who guides visitors to both places, explained to Lieutenant General Zdzislaw Goral that 116 adults and 428 children died and were laid to rest in the cemetery. The Commander of MNC NE highlighted that it is a

Polish General visits Polish Cemetery in Germany

his daughter came from Belgium to Germany in order to trace the roots of their family. They were accompanied on their journey by a Belgian TV team

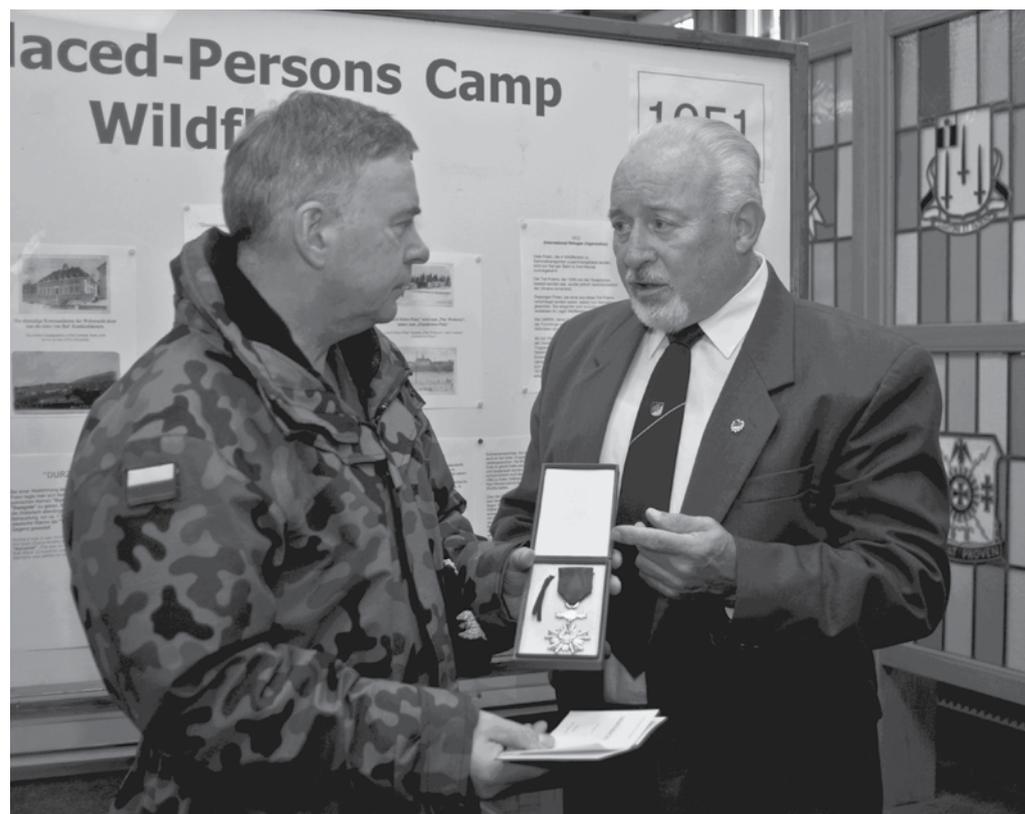
Wildflecken is an example

Adolf Kreuzpaintner from Wildflecken, who is taking care of the Polish cemetery and the museum in the Rhön Bar-

foremost and noble matter of course for every civilized country to take care of cemeteries of foreigners died in that country and that he appreciates the outstanding example in Wildflecken which is the only Polish cemetery in Germany in regards to WWII. He concluded that the visit to such places will be the basis for good and trustful multinational cooperation.

Visit to the museum

The history of the Rhön Barracks including the community of displaced Polish forced workers was further explained to the Commander MNC NE and other guest including the Ostręga family in the Rhön Barracks' museum. Pictures, historical equipment and weapons told their own story about the past here in Wildflecken. After the walk through the Museum the Commander gave an overview about MNC NE and gave answers to the questions from the media representatives.





THE FROG DAY

EDITION 2



Weather forecast for Wildflecken

FRI 19. SEP	SAT 20. SEP	SUN 21. SEP
 16 °C	 16 °C	 16 °C
 5 °C	 6 °C	 7 °C

An F-111 was flying escort with a B-52 and generally making a nuisance of himself by flying rolls around the lumbering old bomber. The message for the B-52 crew was:
 - "Anything you can do, I can do better."
 Not to be outdone, the bomber pilot announced that he would rise to the challenge.
 The B-52 continued its flight, straight and level, however. Perplexed, the fighter pilot asked:
 - "So? What did you do?"
 - "We just shut down two engines."

Officer: Soldier, do you have change for a dollar?
 Soldier: Sure, buddy.
 Officer: That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again.
 Do you have change for a dollar?
 Soldier: No, SIR!

During the Persian Gulf War, I was assigned to go to Saudi Arabia. As I was saying good-bye to my family, my three-year-old son, Christopher, was holding on to my leg and pleading with me not to leave.
 - "No, Daddy, please don't go!" he kept repeating.
 We were beginning to make a scene when my wife, desperate to calm him, said:
 - "Let Daddy go and I'll take you to get a pizza."
 Immediately, Christopher loosened his death grip, stepped back and in a calm voice said
 - "Bye, Daddy."



- I have a big son - Said proudly Captain Marcel Trojan, from the Slovak Army, when he had received information from his wife. 17th September 2008 at 20:57 is the date of birth of his son Samuel (weight 3,85kg, height 53 cm).
 We all would like to say :

Congratulations!!!!



free time

	9		7				1	2
8	2	1			9	5		7
5			1			9		3
	5		9		6	3	7	4
7	6		4				9	
		9	8	1		2		
	1	5	3	6		7	8	9
		3						
9		4				6		5

SUDOKU

Sudoku (pronounced soo-dough-coo with the emphasis on the first syllable) is a simple number-based puzzle/game played on a 9x9 grid that is divided into 3x3 subgrids. The goal is to enter a number from 1 to 9 in each cell so that each number appears only once in each column and row. In addition, each 3x3 subgrid may only contain one of each number.

Impresum
 WISNIEWSKI WOJCIECH, RESENBRO HASSE, GRAF GUNNAR, DONSLUND KIM, H LANGTHEJM, SCHUSTER JÜRGEN,
 RATYNSKI SLAWOMIR, KRAMPL ROBERT, SOBOLEWSKI RAFAL, KÜHNAST ANDREAS, PIELECKI GRZEGORZ, SEEGER HANS