

The Baltic Amber

Multinational Corps Northeast Magazine



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Special Edition - 2006





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The Crest of the Multinational Corps Northeast

The crest of a military formation is a sign expressing its military affiliation through the use and combination of colors and symbols. The crest of Multinational Corps Northeast reflects the formation's relationship to the respective nations and to the location of its home garrison. The blue background color in the crest of Multinational Corps Northeast indicates its basic relationship with NATO. The three waves represent three



Baltic Approaches that connects Baltic Sea with the Northern Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. The three swords indicate the co-operation between the three armies and the three nations dedicated to their mutual responsibility.

The Griffon symbolizes the location of the Headquarters of the Corps and has its origin in the crest of the City of Szczecin.

The Baltic Amber
Multinational Corps Northeast Magazine
Special Edition – 2005

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The Baltic Amber reflects to the natural resin amber, that can be found on the beaches of the Baltic Sea close to Szczecin. It is well known in Poland, the host country of HQ MNC NE.

The Baltic Amber is the authorised official magazine of the Multinational Corps Northeast, intended to inform and educate members of the Headquarters and assigned formations, as well as international groups and individuals.

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Commander's Welcome

Dear Readers,

Since 18 September 1999, when it was officially inaugurated, multinationalism has been the key word for MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST in Szczecin. At the beginning, the Corps was a common enterprise of the three framework nations: Denmark, Germany and Poland. However, we have been growing since then: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia have also successfully integrated their soldiers into the Corps' structure. In future, we expect other nations as well to join our unique effort to disseminate ideas of cooperation and trust in this part of Europe in order to build up a safer environment.

In February 2006, the North Atlantic Council approved the certification of MNC NE as a fully operational NATO Headquarters. Now we are a part of NATO's Force Structure and ready to face the military challenges that we will be confronted with.

As Commander of this unique HQ, I am deeply convinced that MNC NE will cope with all complex tasks given by the NATO alliance, because our strength springs from inside, based on integration and multinationalism. We have succeeded in creating a significant international standing by building up an international platform of common understanding, cooperation and willingness of 8 different nations. Furthermore, we have learnt that multinationalism can provide a robust framework for implementing common security and political interests. In that sense, MNC NE has become a visible sign not only of the historical changes in Europe, but also of a step forward towards a deeper integration of new nations into the NATO alliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Egon Ramms'.

Egon Ramms

Lieutenant General DEU Army
Commander Multinational Corps Northeast



Introduction

Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) has become an important and visible milestone within the historical changes of the Euro-



pean security environment that we have experienced in the past two decades. MNC NE represents a significant step towards a deeper integration inside the NATO alliance. Undoubtedly, multinational cooperation within Baltic Barracks effectively contributes to a common understanding of the responsi-



bilities for the European security and provides partnership among equals, sharing the same rights and burdens.

The garrison town of Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast represents a focal point of the West Pomeranian region.



The city of Szczecin and its citizens had to suffer a lot in the course of more than seven centuries of its history until 1945: epidemics, ravage, looting, siege, occupation and devastating bomb raids. Never has Szczecin actively interfered with the German or European history, but it was rather abused and maltreated but as well developed by many powers (Denmark, Poland and Brandenburg as well as Sweden and Prussia, the French and the Soviets) and their claims to power.

And yet – Szczecin, is keeping on rising like Phoenix from the ashes to economic prosperity, middle-class affluence and international reputation and became Central Europe’s “Gate to the Baltic Sea”.



History of MNC NE



The first step towards the new Multinational Corps Northeast was taken when the three Ministers of Defense of Denmark, Germany and Poland agreed upon the establishment of a new multinational headquarters in Szczecin once Poland became a member of NATO in 1999.

Headquarters “Allied Land Forces Schleswig-Holstein and Jutland” (LANDJUT) was going to form the nucleus of the new command. In July 1997, the decision was taken at the NATO summit in Madrid to invite the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland for membership. Thereafter, the Ministers of Defense of Denmark, Germany and Poland decided in Omulew in Poland to establish the new Danish-German-Polish Corps. This Corps would be named MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST (MNC NE), with its Headquarters located in Szczecin / Poland.

When, in autumn 1998, the Ministers of Defense of the three framework nations, i.e. Denmark, Germany and Poland agreed on establishing 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 the Corps Convention 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 Danish-German-Polish Corps Headquarters moved into the renovated buildings of Baltic Barracks.

There are a number of political, military and geographical reasons for the selection of Szczecin as MNC NE’s base. The main reason for establishing the new Corps and its Headquarters was the intention to accelerate the integration of the Polish Armed Forces into a multinational structure, thus contributing to the stability in Europe.



A lot has happened in Szczecin over the past nearly six years. MNC NE has become an attractive draw to many, in particular to the new NATO-members. Since April 2004, the flags of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been fluttering at the Headquarters. And in 2005, Slovakia and the Czech Republic joined Multinational Corps Northeast too. With now 8 nations MNC NE is a real multinational corps.



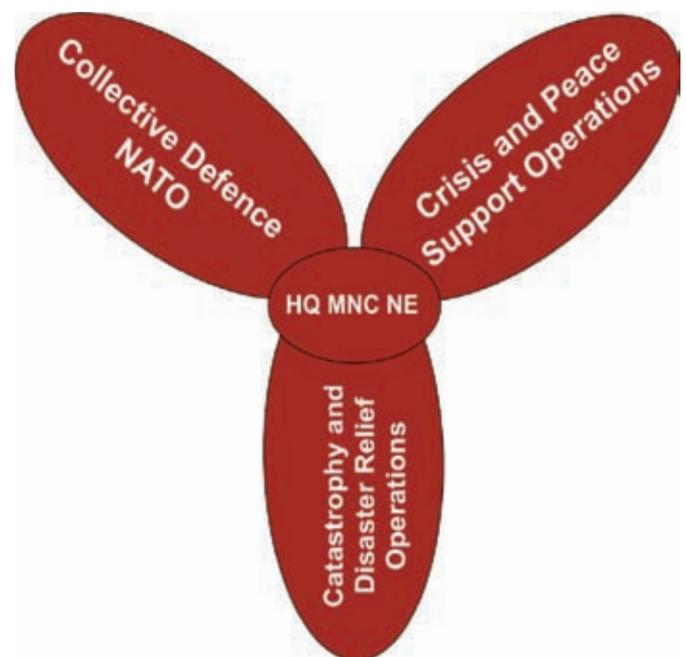
Chronology of Events

- September 5th, 1998: Ratification of Corps Convention of Multinational Corps Northeast.
- March 12th, 1999: Poland becomes a member of NATO.
- April 29th, 1999: HQ Corps LANDJUT is disbanded.
- September 18th, 1999: MNC NE Inauguration Ceremony is held in Szczecin.
- November 22nd, 2000: After participating in NATO Exercise CRYSTAL EAGLE, the three Sponsoring Nations declare the new Corps HQ operational for Article 5 Operations.
- March 2002: The Corps participates in NATO-led Exercise STRONG RESOLVE in Poland. The aim of the exercise is to improve level of operational readiness for non-Article 5 Crisis Response Operations.
- Since mid-2002: The nations' goal is to develop the Corps HQ into a professional Headquarters in the NATO Force Structure. In 2003, the HQ achieves Interim Operational Capability status during "CRYSTAL EAGLE 2003".
- In autumn 2002: The three Baltic republics send officers into MNC NE PfP Office.
- April 2004: The flags of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania flutter at the HQ.
- September 2004: BALTIC EXPRESS II brings the first steps towards FOC regarding Movement and Deployment.
- October 2004: The exercise CAPABLE WARRIOR 2004 in the city of Karup, Denmark.
- In January 2005: Slovakia joins Multinational Corps Northeast as the seventh nation, too.
- October 2005: The Czech Republic sends 2 staff officers and joins the HQ as the eighth nation.
- October/November 2005: NATO exercise Compact Eagle 2005. HQ MNC NE trains high intensity warfighting scenario and a Peace Support Operation Corps. Passing Full Operational Capability during exercise is mandatory to be deployed for a mission.
- February 2006: HQ MNC NE is certified by North Atlantic Council and obtained FOC status. MNC NE becomes a part of NATO Force Structure.

Our threefold Mission

In times of peace, the role of military forces is to guard against risks to the security of the Alliance members as well as to contribute to the maintenance of stability and balance in Europe and to the preservation of peace.

Therefore, HQ MNC NE's main task is to plan and conduct various military exercises and training to improve the capability of the multinational Corps' staff, of the Command Support Brigade, of the Corps troops and of its affiliated Divisions to conduct the entire spectrum of operations.



In that sense, the Headquarters efficiently and effectively transforms itself into a lean and agile Land Component Command, capable of responding on the operational level and with the necessary determination, when called. With its continued diligence and resolve, the MNC NE staff is prepared to promote peace and stability in the future, both within NATO's borders and beyond.

MNC NE is able to conduct the entire spectrum of operations related to the three missions given to the Corps and its Headquarters respectively.



Catastrophy and Disaster Relief Operations

The Corps Headquarters' capability to master humanitarian and catastrophe missions, including natural disaster relief missions, basically calls for reliable command and control arrangements in support of civilian emergency authorities. Principally, the Corps Headquarters' active personnel will also require training relevant to this mission.

Crisis and Peace Support Operations

The second mission requires the ability to contribute to Crisis Management and Peace Support Operations as a Land Component HQ within the NATO Combined Joint Tasks Forces context or as a Joint Force Command. It recommends participation in "combined" exercises not only with MNC NE's assigned forces and other forces of NATO partners, but also with countries within the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme.

Collective Defense Mission

The first mission is related to the entire Corps and requires training in a high-intensity war-fighting scenario within the collective defense of the Alliance (Article-5 Operations). The use and inter-

operability of common procedures is considered to be the indispensable prerequisite for co-operation between Army, Air Force and Navy forces.

Exercises & Trainings

The Commander's overall aim in military exercises and training is to improve the capability of the multinational Corps' staff and of its Divisions assigned to



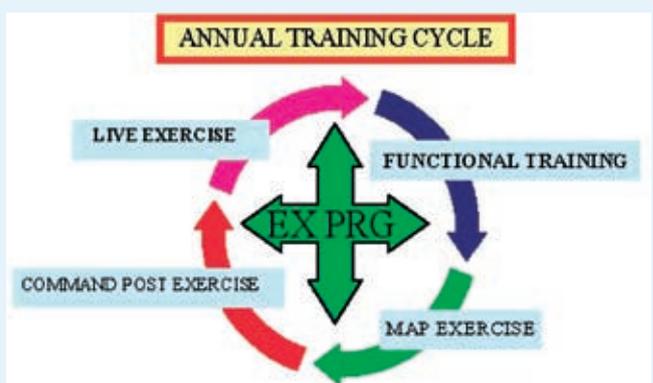
Exercises and trainings are required to ensure the operational effectiveness among the functional areas of the Corps Staff and their interfaces with assigned forces in terms of combat support and combat service support or other relevant topics.



Functional EX & TRG activities can range from live exercises to study periods with main emphasis on the latter. Exercises mirroring the spectrum of crisis response operations (CRO) form the second pillar of MNC NE exercise and training activities. HQ MNC NE usually uses command post exercises (CPX) and computer-assisted Exercises (CAX) as forms of training.

the Corps to conduct the entire spectrum of operations. These operations are related to the three missions given to the Corps.

For common training and exercise purposes the Corps is mainly trained by the NATO Principle Subordinated Command (PSC) level – in the future by the Land Component Command (LCC) HQ in Heidelberg in Germany.



Command Post Exercises (CPX) are an opportunity for the Commander and his staff to train procedures and decision-making processes. Participants simulate opposing forces (OPFOR) or situational forces (SITFOR) on the paper play. During such exercises the staff is able to train different kinds of conflicts: high-intensity war (HIW), crisis response operation (CRO) or peace support operation (PSO). These CPX provide essential training at minimal cost and serve as training foundation for more complex exercises.

Live Exercises (LIVEX) are primarily concerned with the integration of forces. It is the most comprehensive and realistic form of exercise, a combination of computer simulation and field training exercise. It is also the most expensive form of training. LIVEXs contribute significantly to the operational readiness of headquarters and subordinate forces and allow them to build tactical and operational training on separate national levels.

Computer Assisted Exercises (CAX) take CPX one step further: the units are employed in the sophisticated computer simulation. A major advantage of the CAX over other forms of exercise is the capability to conduct various types of conflict force-on-force operations.

However, not everything can be done in simulations, especially consumptions, side effects, etc. For that reason it is very difficult to train crisis response operations and peace support operations.

A Full Operational Capabilities Headquarters

Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) achieved the Full Operational Capability (FOC), which is a final examination of the headquarters within NATO's military structure. Passing FOC entitled the Corps to be considered an operational NATO-HQ and included into NATO's command structure as a Headquarters of Low Readiness Forces (HQ LRF), which should be ready for deployment within 180 days.

The main training objectives for multinational exercise Compact Eagle 05 (CE05), conducted by MNC NE in autumn 2005, was to achieve Full Operational Capability. The HQ consequently fulfilled numerous allied requirements in regard to structures, procedures and doctrines. In other words, the Corps' main objective during the FOC test was to present itself as an organisation capable of working together efficiently and of communicating effectively on the battlefield. All 3700 participants of the FOC evaluation were training their ability to perform military tasks in the High-Intensity War Fighting (HIW)

scenario, which reflected a practical use of the regulations for Art. V "Collective Defence". Due to

the complexity of FOC, the evaluation process had been divided into two parts: static and operational. During the static part, the evaluation team from Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) tested the Corps' formal procedures and structures, whereas the operational part concentrated on military capabilities in an as realistic environment as possible. As a result, it was noted by the Deployable Headquarters Task Force (Land) that the Corps demonstrated a very high standard of coordinated staff work and that the MNC NE appeared as a "happy headquarters with a sense of pride".

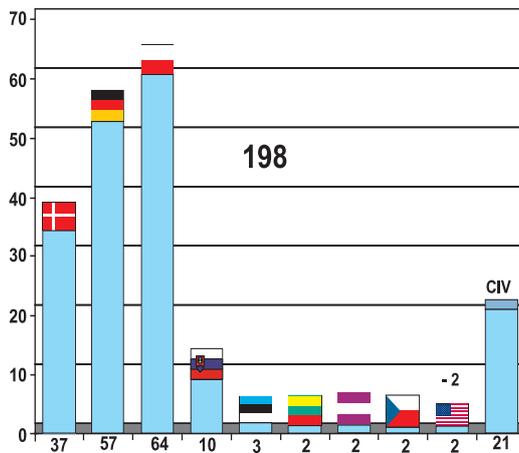
To MNC NE, being certified as a fully operational headquarters meant that the common enterprise of 8 nations had succeeded. The next step, after achieving FOC, will be to combine different aspects of the HIW and Peace Support Operations (PSO) in a way that every soldier in the HQ will be able to operate flexibly in different environments.



MNC NE Manning & Organisation

Manning

Wider multinationalism has been the keyword of the Corps over the last few years: the perfect co-operation among soldiers from Denmark, Germany, Poland and, recently, also from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia. The HQ takes pride in these many years of experience. An experienced international personnel fills 196 slots within the HQ and multinationalism applies already in the lowest cell of the HQ's organizational structure. Success in multinational operations does not only depend on understanding the challenges involved, but also on making the best of the opportunities available.

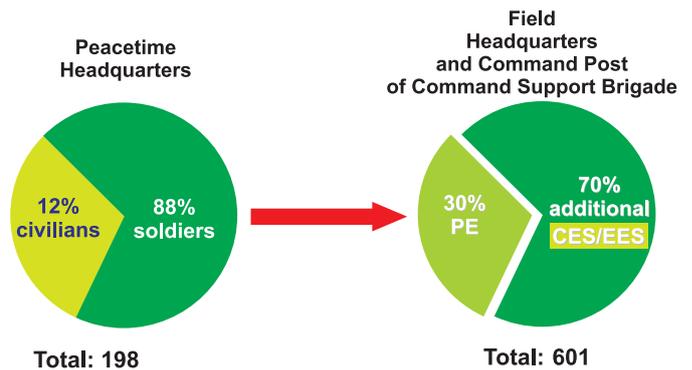


and active military personnel temporarily assigned to HQ MNC NE, will man two thirds of the 601 slots in Field Headquarters (FHQ). This number does not include the personnel for the Air Operation and Coordination Centre (AOCC) and the Maritime Liaison Cell.

It is our experience that even if PE is only one third of the full FHQ manning, we have demonstrated during the exercises that we can integrate the argumentation of personnel in relatively short time.

The HQ's MNC NE Peacetime Establishment (PE) including a certain number of (mainly Polish) civilians, is almost evenly divided between all participating nations. As this establishment is not sufficient for a 24-hours operational employment, the slim manning level will be reinforced during emergency conditions. The Emergency Establishment Supplement (EES) Personnel as well as the Crisis Establishment Supplement (CES), consisting of reserve personnel

HEADQUARTERS MNC NE CRISIS AND EMERGENCY ESTABLISHMENT



Organisation

Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast is organized into the Command Group and six Staff Divisions. The posts in the Command Group rotate between the three framework nations, while those on the "Assistant Chief of Staff" (ACOS) level and below have been allocated to the nations on a permanent basis.

However, in future Denmark will not be involved anymore in the rotation for manning the post of the Commander, and will only participate in manning the two other positions – the Deputy Commander and the Chief of Staff.

The six "G" divisions are each headed by an ACOS, ranking Colonel, and divided into a number of Branches. The posts of the ACOSs and Branch Chiefs have been allocated to the nations permanently. Furthermore, each HQ Division has one goal: to advise the Commander on its field of expertise and to pursue the common objective. The Command Group consists of Commander, Deputy Commander, Chief of Staff, Chief Military Assistance and Legal Advisers.





**HEADQUARTERS MULTINATIONAL
AOC & SUPPORT**



**TIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST
ORT ELEMENTS**

COMMAND GROUP

Commander



The Corps Commander's primary mission is to prepare the Corps to enable it to carry out the full range of military operations throughout the area of responsibility and beyond.

Since 18th of February 2004, Lieutenant General (LTGEN) Egon Ramms is the first German Commander of Multinational Corps Northeast in

Szczecin. LTGEN Egon Ramms is 57 years old, 37 of which he has spent wearing a military uniform. He began his career as an operational officer and rose through the ranks, serving among others as company commander and as commander of a logistic brigade as well.

Lieutenant General Egon Ramms also held several posts in the German Defence Ministry, for example: Assistant Chief of Branch, Policy and Parliamentary Matters, Branch Chief of Central Branch, Deputy Chief of Staff Logistics Division and, recently, Director of Armed Forces Staff (2000-2004). He has been living in Szczecin since 2004 with his wife Brigitte and has two adult children.

The Deputy Commander is responsible to the Commander for assuming the Commander's responsibilities, when required, and for performing other duties as directed by the Commander. Furthermore, the Deputy Commander advises the Commander in all fields of concern to the HQ.

Major General Jan Brun Andersen was born in 1948 in Copenhagen, Denmark. He served with the Royal Life Guard in various operational functions at company and battalion level and as Staff Officer in the Defence Command Denmark, first in the Conscripts Personnel Branch, later in the Resources Branch. Furthermore he has served as Deputy Chief of Staff, UNPROFOR, Croatia and Deputy Chief Military Observer, UNMOT, Tajikistan.

Deputy Commander

In the two years preceding his arrival to Szczecin, Major General Andersen was Chief Operations, Budget & Finance Branch in the Defence Command, Denmark.

Major General Jan Brun Andersen was appointed Deputy Commander of Multinational Corps Northeast on 18th February 2004. He is married to Susanne and has three adult children.



Chief of Staff



Since 2004, Brigadier General Henryk Skarzyński from Poland has been Chief of Staff of Multinational Corps Northeast. The Chief of Staff is responsible to the Commander for coordinating and directing the activities of the staff and for transmitting policies, plans and decisions of the Commander and Deputy Commander

to the staff.

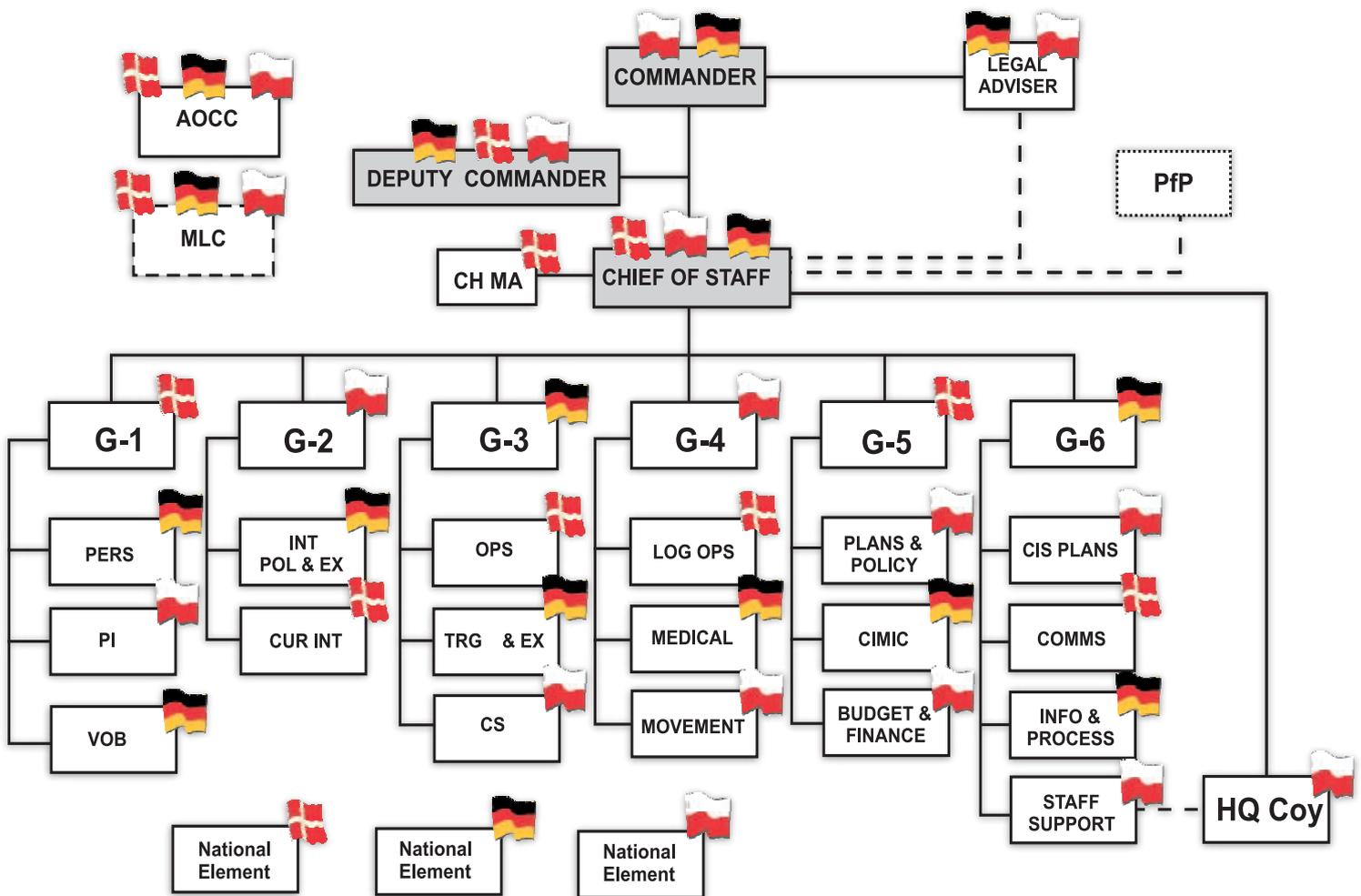
Brigadier General Henryk Skarzyński was born in 1951 in Kowary, Poland. He atten-

ded the Military Academy of Armoured Troops in Poznań (Poland) from 1969 to 1973. During the following years he served as Staff Officer in Recce Battalion in Żagań, Recce Staff Officer in the 8th Tank Regiment and as Chief of Staff in the 25th Tank Regiment in Szczecin.

Furthermore, he served as Chief, Operational Branch, and as Chief, Operational Division, in the Bydgoszcz-based Headquarters Pomeranian Military District, as well as Chief of Staff, 12th POL Mechanized Division in Szczecin. In the last four years preceding his posting at MNC NE as Chief of Staff, he was Commander of 8th Coastal Defence Division in Koszalin, and also Chief of Staff 1 Polish Mechanized Corps in Bydgoszcz. He is married to Mirosława and has an adult child.



The Headquarters' Structure



Command Group

The Sub Command Post Command Group supports the work of the three generals of Headquarters MNC NE. Each of the generals has his own personal staff consisting of a Military Assistant (one from each framework nation), an Aide-Camp as a personal assistant and a driver. The supporting organization of the generals is headed by the Chief Military Assistant (CH MA), a Danish Lieutenant Colonel. The Chief Clerk and his three clerks are mainly dealing with information management.

The Legal Advisers' office is a part of the Command Group. It is responsible for providing legal advice to the Command Group and to the relevant staff divisions.

The Legal Advisers' office provides direct input to the decision-making process in order to ensure that all MNC NE activities can withstand legal scrutiny and that Headquarters' plans, procedures, orders and directives become verified in terms of their compliance with applicable integrational law and higher HQ directives.

The Legal Advisers also participate in all training activities of both the Headquarters and its subordinated units.



G-1 Division

G-1 Division is headed by a Danish ACOS who is superior to the branches **Personnel, Moral and Welfare, Public Information (PI) and Visitors and Observers Bureau (VOB).**

The PI branch supplies the public with all information about ongoing military activities and other newsworthy topics. The Corps' website is used as a means of communicating who we are, what we do and why we do it. Also, the PI provides the Commander and HQ staff with numerous services, including daily press clipping, news analysis, exercise planning or photographic support.

Visitors and Observers Bureau (VOB) Branch gives



advise on military protocol and ceremonial issues and organises visits by civilian and military VIP's and guests. The Personnel, Moral and Welfare Branch is responsible for manning of posts and for the updating of job descriptions as well as individual personal data. Furthermore, Moral and Welfare Branch supports multinational social activities, mainly by co-funding clubs and by providing HQ members with proper information on local activities in the community.



G-2 Division

G-2 Division is headed by a Polish ACOS who is responsible for intelligence, military security, mili-

branches: **Policy & Exercises and Current Intelligence.**

G-2 Division collects, analyses and forward information to the headquarters. This is an essential part in the process of making decisions, planning operations and fighting battles. It provides accurate and timely intelligence pertaining to indications and warnings, crisis development, current operations, and conflict resolutions. This work can only be done in a secure environment. Therefore, G-2 Division is also responsible for appropriate local security measures. Through this intelligence and security support, G-2 provides inputs to planning and conduct of operations, while it safeguards the Command.



tary geography and the co-ordination of all aspects of electronic warfare. G-2 Division consists of two



G-3 Division

G-3 Division is headed by a German ACOS. He is responsible for conducting operations, for training and exercise of the HQ and affiliated formations, and for development of procedures and common standards



on combined arms and joint warfare.

G-3 Division is divided into three branches: Operational Branch, Training & Exercise Branch, and Combat Support Branch.

The Operational Branch is responsible for current operations and current planning, develop-

ment of operational plans and procedures. Furthermore, the branch is responsible for the development and co-ordination to exercise scenarios of Corps Exercises and operational study periods. The Training & Exercise Branch is responsible for the entire planning and co-ordination of MNC NE training and exercise program and major Corps Exercises. An important task is the preparation for a real mission of the Corps in the near future. The combat support branch contributes to operational planning in all aspects of the combined arms and joint battle. Provides and maintains expertise and development of operational procedures on combat support and joint warfare. This branch is responsible for concept development and co-ordination of Effects Based Operations. All matters of Engineer, NBC, and Force Protection are handled in CS Branch as well.

G-4 Division

G-4 Division is headed by a Polish ACOS who is responsible for logistics, movement and medical service. G-4 covers all aspects of logistic, movement and medical planning, policies, guidelines and procedures. G-4 co-ordinates the development and execution with NATO, national and international authorities.

During exercises and missions G-4 will establish five centres as Logistic Operation, Movement, Military Police, Medical and Personal. By that G-4 provides requirements and priorities for logistic support. NATO and national logistic plans are evaluated and coordinated. All matters pertaining logistics in re-

lation to CIMIC and Host Nation Support will be coordinated.

Furthermore, G4 is responsible to assess the logistic, movement, military police, medical and personnel situation and recommends appropriate courses of action to Commander MNC NE by covering



all aspects of multinational logistics. All dimensions of multinational logistic will be covered by G-4's effort to conduct logistic operations with logistic and medical assets provided by Nations on corps level.

G-5 Division

G-5 Division is headed by a Danish ACOS and is responsible for all policy related issues, operational planning, civil – military cooperation (CIMIC) and budget and financial matters. ACOS G5 additionally acts as FINANCIAL CONTROLLER of MNC NE. As such the Division consists of 3 branches: Plans & Policy, CIMIC and BUDFIN.

Activities of Plans & Policy Branch cover 3 areas of responsibility. Plans cell focuses on development and co-ordination of operational plans for Non-Article 5 CRO and Article 5 operations. Policy cell is responsible for development and co-ordination of overall policies, concepts, doctrines, structure and



ROE of MNC NE as well as for contacts with the HQ's superior body - the Corps Committee. The Non-lethal cell - represented by INFOOPS and PSYOPS - deals with all non-lethal aspects within the HQ, specifically with Information Operations (INFOOPS) and Psychological Operations (PSYOPS).

The CIMIC Branch is responsible for the assessment of the civil situation, the liaison to key civil organizations and - if necessary - the planning of CIMIC projects.

Finally BUDFIN Branch provides all financial support for the HQ, including budget planning, fiscal policies, procedures and analysis. It additionally stays in close, direct cooperation with

Budget and Finance Group and Senior Resources Committee.

G-6 Division

G-6 Division is headed by a German ACOS who is responsible for communications, information systems, management and staff support. During peacetime,

the division also comprises the nucleus of the staff of the Command Support Brigade.

The G-6 Division provides specialist advice to both the Commander and Headquarters Staff on all matters concerning communications and information systems (CIS) as well as on information and communications services (ICS), which facilitates HQ MNC NE's operation.

G-6 deals with the technical management of information flow within HQ MNC NE in accordance with priorities set by G-3 Operations. In addition, G-6 provides direct ADP support to the MNC NE staff a dedicated team of ADP and Help Desk personnel ensures system availability.

The Command Support Brigade (CSB) is the command responsible for provision of all real-life support logistics to the headquarters. The CSB provides this support to the peacetime establishment; it plans and supervises the execution of all administrative support for the personnel.

Air Operations Co-ordination Centre (AOCC)



Chief AOCC position rotates between Danish, German and Polish presently chaired by a Danish Colonel. AOCC is subordinated to Combined Air Operation Centre (CAOC1) in Finderup Denmark but collocated with HQ MNC NE during peace, exercise and operations. The main task of AOCC is to provide air expertise to the Corps as a liaison team between air (CAOC1) and ground forces. AOCC mainly deals with current joint tactical operations within the Corps Area Of Operations. The planning responsibility is limited to provide air expertise to the Corps planning process. Air force personnel from three nations man the AOCC.

The AOCC consists of a Command Section, an Offensive Operations Section, Defensive Operations Section, Intelligence Section, Administration Section and Command Control Resource Management (C2RM). The Offensive Operations Section is responsible for the coordination of offensive air asset: Close Air Support(CAS) and Air Interdiction (AI) to attack ground targets.

Defensive Operations Section provides and coordinates air force air defence assets with Army Organic Air Defence (AOAD). Additionally they man, together with Corps representatives, the Corps Air-space Management Element (CAME) to coordinate all ASM between air force and Corps.

The Intelligence Section collects information through different national and NATO Sources. Since the AOCC is the interface between air force and army, the intelligence section must keep track of all joint intelligence. C2RM Section main responsibility is to provide the air command and controls system Northern European Command and Command Control Information System (NEC CCIS) to the AOCC and elements of the Corps.

PfP Office

Since the Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became members of Nato in April 2004, the PfP office has been dormant. But it is a "sleeping beauty" and can be activated any time. The Corps Committee has recently offered PfP to both Finland and Sweden. Until now, Finland has expressed an interest in our Partnership for Peace office.



Multinationalism

Multinationalism is the only way into the future – this is the profound conviction of the personnel in Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE). Multinationalism provides the framework for implementing common security political interests. In a world where a soldier's spectrum of tasks includes disaster relief as well as combat missions, and in times characterized by cuts of defence budgets and reduction of armed forces, multinationalism is the most efficient solution to distribute the enormous burdens among as many shoulders as possible. This is the only way to cope with complex tasks in the future.

The multinational future has already begun in the Polish city of Szczecin. In 1999, MNC NE began its work in the Baltic Barracks and up to now has remained the only NATO-headquarters of NATO Force Structure on the territory of the former Warsaw Pact. The MNC NE's range of tasks reaches from collective defence within the NATO alliance to crisis response operations and peacekeeping missions.



of experience. Our new partners benefit from these experiences. At the same time, though, we learn tremendously from the Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Slovaks and Czechs. This is an exciting process."



Although the 198 officers and non-commissioned officers of MNC NE wear different uniforms, they pursue a common objective. To Lieutenant Colonel Kjaer Chief Military Assistant, multinationalism as part of day-to-day life in Szczecin is one of the biggest successes. "MNC NE can be proud of that", he says. "We work together here. Everybody learns from everybody. As a matter of fact, long-time NATO member nations like Germany and Denmark have a certain lead

Being the working language of the HQ, English has without any doubt decisively contributed to the creation of the professional military environment and also of the corporate feeling at the HQ. It should be emphasized that nobody working at MNC NE has English as his mother tongue. However, from the very beginning the HQ has been attaching a lot of weight to language skills of its members. In addition, there is an unwritten law at the Baltic Barracks: as soon as a group speaking one language is joined by a foreigner, the conversation is continued in English only.

Solving problems together is what impresses the Polish Lieutenant Colonel Andrzej Lorenc most. He is Chief of the Combat Support Branch, thus serving as a link between the HQ and the supporting formations. Lorenc considers himself a manager in uniform, but he underlines: "You have got to have the right feeling for it in a multinational environment. Diplomatic skills are part of the tools." To him, one single objective is paramount, though: "We have to do our best every day in order to keep on improving, in order to work more efficiently and effectively. In a multinational team this contributes to the release of huge creative energies." This applies to everybody serving in MNC NE.



Integration

Much effort has been made to integrate the Headquarters into Szczecin's society and its socio-political environment. Definitely, the HQ's integration as part of day-to-day life of Szczecin is one of MNC NE's biggest successes. In

this sense, MNC NE is a unique Headquarters and it is proud of that. Presently, MNC NE can be seen as a part of Szczecin's environment – a part of Szczecin's characteristic and identity.

Relations with the officials in Szczecin

From the very beginning, the HQ has developed very good relations with the local authorities

HQ MNC NE also celebrates national festivals and traditional events. This is not only due to the respect for our host nation, but also to a feeling of comradeship toward the local people.

The members of HQ's staff want to be visible in the city and share thoughts and feelings with the community. They understand and experience Szczecin's history and Polish traditions to become a part of the city.



this is a mutual advantage. By doing so, the HQ not only promotes its own profile as a NATO HQ, but also fights the “old historical stereotypes” – if they should still exist in the local society.

On the other hand, the local authorities are very welcome to promote the “image of Szczecin” inside the HQ, in particular as far as foreign staff members are concerned. Many of our staff members have travelled across Poland and invited their friends and families to visit the West-Pomeranian region. The HQ MNC NE plays an active role in the local social and political life. The Headquarters participates in various historical and social events, showing respect for Polish people.



The Individual in the Local Area

Both the local population and the authorities are very familiar with the HQ and its members. All soldiers wearing Army uniforms, can freely walk along the streets of Szczecin without experiencing any signs of intolerance from the local community. We realize how important this is when we think about the hardship foreign soldiers must endure in other countries. From the very beginning, foreign soldiers have experienced lavish hospitality and understanding from the local people in Szczecin. Furthermore, people encourage foreign soldiers to come out of the Baltic Barracks to get to know them.

In consequence, HQ soldiers have moved to Szczecin with their families, and all of them are really enthusiastic about the city and the Polish fellow residents. In that sense, it becomes a clear sign of the high-level integration, because they all are willing to live here. They feel safe and secure here and their families can only benefit from being a part of the international society.



SIS – Szczecin International School

Education is one of the most important aspects of the integration process within the local society. We need to teach our children how to respect and to tolerate each other, how to derive the most valuable knowledge and experience from multinationalism. Szczecin International School is a direct result of the HQ's activities in the local environment. The fully international society gives our children a huge chance – from the very beginning, they are taught how to cope with the modern world – the world of globalisation and of the English language dominance.

Szczecin International School started its service on September 1st, 2002. Right now, the school is home to 117 children, 60% of whom come from soldier families living in Szczecin, 40% from families from other European nations. Definitely, SIS can be described as the “multinational seed”. This

is the simple reason why such an initiative is not only valuable for our children, but also for the city of Szczecin, in order to convey the idea of the international community to the outside world.



Foreign Children in Polish Kindergartens

MNC NE foreign soldiers sending their small children to the typical Polish kindergartens. So they start to integrate themselves from



the “lowest and dearest level”. They want their children to be a part of the Polish society, have Polish friends and learn the Polish language as naturally as possible. They don’t want to be guests here.

Learning Polish

Strong relations with the community of Szczecin result in a very natural process of learning Polish. Not because people are ordered to do so, but because they are encouraged by their wives and children. They learn the language on the

daily basis – talking with neighbours, sharing cooking recipes or doing the shopping. Such an attitude is also presented by the Commander Lieutenant General Egon Ramms, who back in February 2004 delivered his inauguration speech in Polish – which was more than a symbolic gesture.

Social and Sports Events



The HQ has established various sport and social clubs. The most popular leisure activities of the MNC NE staff members are soccer, golf and hunting. Naturally, the HQ is very welcome to participate and we always

try to take an active part in various events organized in Szczecin. HQ MNC NE is really visible downtown – soldiers play golf in Bino-wo Park, go hunting in the West-Pomeranian forests together with Polish fellow residents, they are invited to schools as a jury member, the HQ’s clubs participate in various local events, representing the HQ and its multinational environment.





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