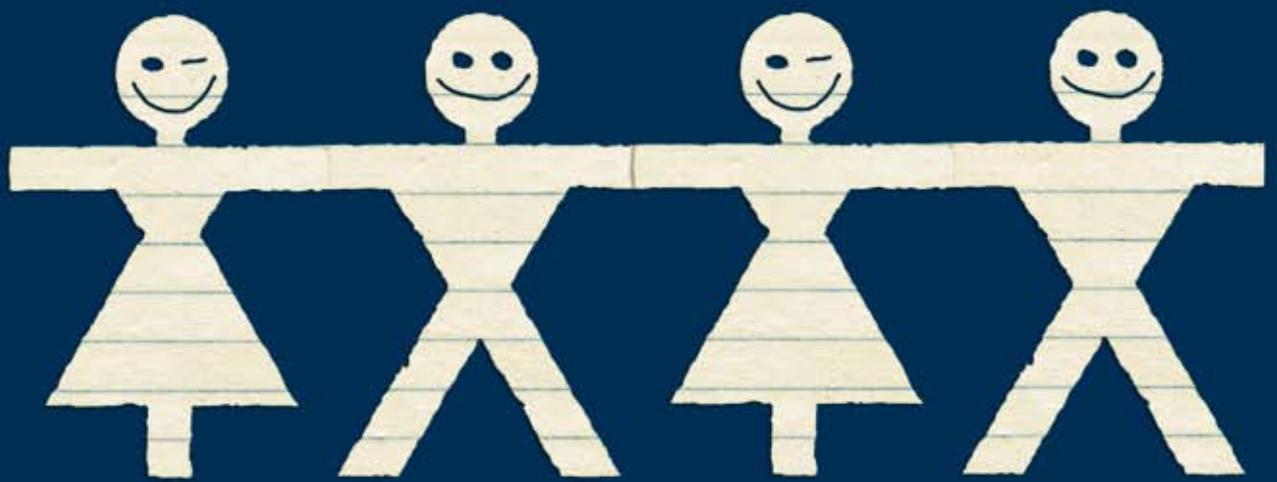


The Baltic Amber

Multinational Corps Northeast Magazine



www.mncne.pl



COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Multinational Corps Northeast magazine – The Baltic Amber. As usual, we have chosen one topic to bring the Corps closer to our readers. This time it will be the community and environment, which shall be seen as the source of strength and success of this Corps. What has made us think about the two?



It is like the body. It tasks. Last but mutual relations

It seems that the divide tasks and duties directions and simulating actions.

But definitely these elements would not make the Corps function as it does. The support from the air is assured by our friends from the Air Operations Co-ordination Centre (AOCC). There are National Support Elements dealing with all national matters; Medical Centre takes care of the health of the Corps' personnel. The Headquarters Company is often a forgotten hero, which gives support to the Corps in any way possible. Five Clubs offer ways of spending time off-duty and strengthening ties between people, which gives profit in daily work. These are the Allied Sports Club, Ladies' Club, Allied Officers' Club, Non-Commissioned Officers' Club, and Enlisted Club.

All these elements, which can be metaphorically described as organs and parts of the Corps' body, are interrelated and inter-dependent. Only when they are all in effective operation, the Corps is able to perform tasks as a whole. And still, one should remember about the environment provided by the City of Szczecin, giving the Corps its own place on earth. An attempt to grasp the Corps media image is even going beyond this local environment.

However, in this whole recital of elements one was forgotten, namely the heart. So what is the heart of the Corps? It is the people.



Zdzisław Goral
Lieutenant General
Zdzisław GORAL
Commander MNC NE

The Corps' heartbeat

Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast; 33 Łukasińskiego St., Szczecin, Poland. At first sight it is just "a" corps in "a" city. But attentive observers would notice a complex network of relations. Each single element of this puzzle has to work properly to make other elements function.

a living organism – it has its internal organs and parts of consumes and produces things; it needs energy to complete not least, this organism lives in an environment, with which are to be established, too.

backbone of the Corps is constituted by seven G-Divisions, which among themselves. The Command Group is like a head giving

LIST OF CONTENTS

15 shots at exDCOM

Page 4-5

Szczecin

Page 6-9 you might not know

Page 10-11 How it all began

Page 12-13 THE YOUNGEST MAYOR

Page 14-15 MNC NE members about Szczecin

Page 16-17 AMBASSADOR

Page 18-19 NATIONAL SUPPORT ELEMENTS

GOING LIKE A CLOCKWORK

Page 20-21

Page 22 LET'S GO CLUBBIN'

Page 23 MEDICAL CENTRE

Page 24 LOCKED IN THE MEDIA'S EMBRACE

Page 25 How to become media booster?

Page 26-28
1 2 3

Page 30-31 MNC NE members about Media

MNC NE Calendar 2008

Page 32-33 Selected Events

Page 34-35 Interview with
new DCOM

IMPRESSUM

The Baltic Amber is the authorized official magazine of the HQ MNC NE, which shall be a fruitful source of information on the Corps-related issues for members of the Headquarters, assigned formations as well as international visitors and individuals.

The name Baltic Amber is derived from 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 the Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast.

Opinions expressed in The Baltic Amber are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect official HQ MNC NE or NATO policy. Companies placing advertisements in the magazine and a printing house are in no way connected to or endorsed by the HQ MNC NE or NATO.

The Baltic Amber
Community&Environment

Publication Management
Public Affairs Office
Multinational Corps Northeast
P.O. Box 59, 70-961 Szczecin, Poland
tel. +48 (91) 4445 125
fax. +48 (91) 4445 124
e-mail contact@hqmncne.mil.pl
website www.mncne.pl

Editor in Chief
Lieutenant Colonel Wojciech
Wiśniewski (POL A)

Journalist
Mss Anna Galyga (POL CIV)

Graphic Design
Marian Cihon

Photographs
Marian Cihon
Staff Sergeant Robert Krampf (SVK A)
Corporal Michal Miszta (DEU A)

Printing
ZAPOL, Szczecin/Poland

*Special thanks to MNC NE
Language Group



15 shots at EXDCOM

Major General Jan Brun Andersen, Deputy Commander of Multinational Corps Northeast, was the longest serving general at the HQ. As a key person in the Corps' planning and a driving force for numerous Corps' projects, he was awarded the Corps Medal. This conversation took place a few weeks before his end of duty.

Anna Galyga: Sir, you have been Deputy Commander of the Multinational Corps Northeast for four years. How do you assess these years?

MajGen J. B. Andersen: Are you asking me whether I like my job? As far as I remember all soldiers, not only me, if they are asked this question, they say it is the best job they have ever had. I would agree with that – it is the best job I have ever had not only because it is a tradition to say that. I have enjoyed it fully basically because it was not only for the benefit of ourselves but because we had clear goals and a clear end state to reach. It could be our Full Operational Capabilities (FOC) test, our preparations to the deployment or the deployment itself.

2 What is the importance of this post for your future career?

I have reached that point of my soldier life when I am contributing and giving, and not taking as much as I could, which does not mean that I have not learnt anything. I always learn from being together with people from different countries, which I appreciate very much. But as I am going to retire, I will probably not use this military experience for the future career.

3 Sir, what are your plans for the future then?

Enjoy my life, my family, my wife, my grandchildren, enjoy my house and my garden, which I have not seen for the last many, many years.

4 So you are going back to Denmark?

I am going back to Denmark.

5 What do you consider your greatest success as Deputy Commander of MNC NE?

If you had asked me this question in 2005 I would have said – passing the FOC test. But if I have to point out one thing, I would say it was the success of our deployment to ISAF where our people for six or more months worked hard and managed to cope with the task of being deployed as the first Headquarters ever in the new structure. I think we did a good job and we paved the way for those who would come after us.

The other success, definitely not mine alone but also those who had been here before us, is that we have managed to change the main task of the Corps being integration to tasks which are quite similar to all other Corps Headquarters. We are now the Corps Headquarters like any other even though we are still more than willing to take new members who have not got that much experience in the NATO structures, NATO procedures or deployments.

6 What is the importance of that ISAF mission for you personally?

I had a bet with my Chief of Defence when he told me that my next position would be here at this Headquarters. I said it was nice and that I would have another deployment into an international mission then. He replied that I would never go into an international mission any more. I have won that bet. But that was not my main achievement here, all those things that I have just mentioned to you – being able to contribute to what the staff produced and obtained – all this makes me happy.

7 What was most difficult for you?

Most difficult? Not having my family here.

8 You mentioned that you enjoyed contacts with other nations. What did you learn about other nations of the Corps?

As I had been in a lot of international missions before I came here, I already came to a firm conviction that no country should believe that they have the only clever people in the world. I worked mostly with the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians but I had never worked close with Polish, Czech or Slovak colleagues before. It only proved that I am right – there are just as many bright and good people outside my own country as there are countries.

9 Can you give me some examples of things you borrowed from other countries, like cuisine or customs?

I cannot point out one thing...I would say that I like the Polish cuisine, I especially enjoy the Polish tradition of soup. That is important because my wife is not very fond of soups so back home I had to go to my mother-in-law to get some. Now I may convince my wife that soup is good.

The other thing is the flexibility of all countries – putting all the good ideas, all the traditions and habits on the table no matter what we are discussing – from staff procedures to ways of solving tasks. I am sure that if I looked into my diary, I would be able to find hundreds of things where my way of solving a task was not the way that we picked but either the idea from another country or a mix of all the countries' good ideas was used. The point that I always stress when new people are coming in here is that the greatest challenge is to be open-minded and flexible to good ideas from other nations.

10 Talking about the environment of the Corps, mostly Szczecin, have you noticed any difference in the perception of the Corps throughout these years?

I have been visiting Szczecin since 1999; in my former position I had some relations to the Danish Division as well. I am honestly deeply impressed of how Szczecin has been developing and how the official community has been treating the Headquarters, which makes us feel here as good as in any other country.

In less than five or six years Szczecin has successfully coped with all the challenges like school, health care, insurance and all those things that were problematic when our colleagues came here for the first time in 1999. We have no problems any more and most people realized what it is like to be in Szczecin – it is much easier, much better, much more comfortable than to be in Norway, Bydgoszcz or Brussels, or other big cities. It might be fancier to be in Brussels for example but it is definitely better to be in Szczecin.

11 In what way is it better?

Because of the people and the environment. Szczecin is proud of having a military Headquarters and we feel proud of being in Szczecin.

12 What will you miss most?

It is not my way to miss things in a job; I miss those who were good colleagues but I never look back and say – oh, that was a good time...I always felt I had the best job at the time. And my next best job in the world would be taking care of my family.

13 But thinking about this Headquarters, what memories will come to your mind?

All good memories of my stay in Szczecin, such as good colleagues, hard-working and helpful people, also making friends and leisure time activities encompassing dancing, golfing and going on trips.

14 Is there anything that you wish to say to the MNC NE personnel and your successor?

I think we should keep our approach to multinationalism as we have had it now. Arguably the biggest advantage of our Headquarters is that we are truly multinational. Even though many other Headquarters have much more country-members than we have, they are not multinational as they are run by one nation. Multinationalism is complicated and time consuming, but definitely it is the best way of doing it and the best way of training our staff. They do not have to learn multinationalism when they go on a mission; they already know it.

I wish the Headquarters all the best from the bottom of my heart, all the best for the future. It will be just as tough work as it has been for the last four years when I have been here, but I am sure you will manage.

15 What will you write down under the date of 25th March in your diary?

I will hopefully write down that I appreciate the way that the Headquarters said goodbye to me. I

might write down that men or perhaps especially soldiers never cry but if there were one opportunity when I should have a tear in my eyes, it would be when:

I say goodbye to this Headquarters...



Szczecin you might not know

There are no two identical cities in the world. Each city has its individual character, its original history and its own places. The same is true for Szczecin. These differences may sometimes result in quite opposite feelings – to some people, living in Szczecin is a privilege, others are indifferent about it and for others, it is even a necessity. But it is always easier to simply say “the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence...”. Although to many people Szczecin is just the next stage in their life, why not search for the bright side of that place? And if you have already found it, there is always a chance to make it brighter and to have a new look at **Szczecin**.

a. Monument of Poles' Deed, Kasprowicza Park



b. Harbour Gate



c. Maiden Tower

A long time ago, when only small settlements of people existed in the area of today's Szczecin, a mysterious woman appeared on the bank of the Odra River. She was tall and strong, and she was holding a long pole. Her presence drew people's attention and curiosity. When she started drawing signs on the ground and later on also clearing the area, the people decided to help her. Soon a town was built and called “Sedina” in the honour of the woman. Then, the woman taught people to build ships and to sail, and it turned out the pole she came with was simply a yard. When the first ship came back from a voyage, the town dwellers were pleased to hear about distant places and to see all the treasure. Nobody noticed a smile on Sedina's face mixed together with sorrow. She knew she was not needed any more. Only when the people got over their happiness, they started looking for Sedina. But she disappeared as mysteriously as she had appeared. As the time passed by, the town became bigger and bigger and its name was finally changed into Szczecin.

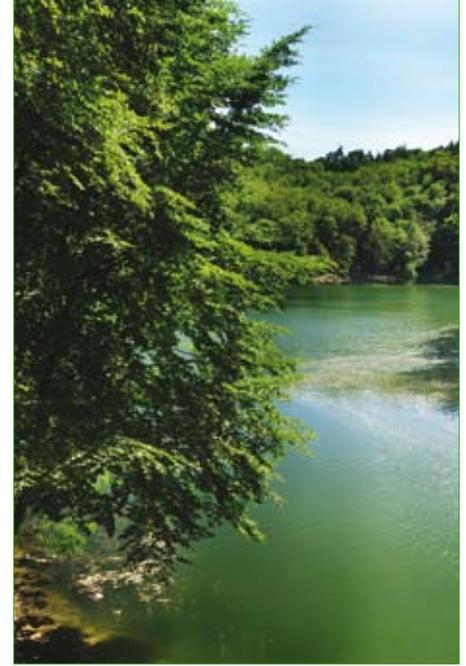
d. Ruins of Quistorp Tower, Arkona Hill



e. Rose Garden



f. Emerald Lake



Szczecin hides surprises, secrets, stories, and legends – the bulk of historical and cultural heritage. You can explore places like the Castle of the Pomeranian Dukes, Wały Chrobrego, Old Town Hall or numerous temples in the city of Szczecin. Although the significance of those places is inconvertible, it might also be a good idea to look for things exceptional, different, maybe coloured with a secret or a legend.

The beginnings of Szczecin date back to the 8th century when there was a Slavonic settlement already on today's castle hill and a fortified town later on as well. In the 14th century, defensive walls with a length of 2510 meters surrounded the town. There were almost 30 defensive towers and 15 watchtowers. The town could be left through 4 gates leading into 4 directions. Today's **b. Harbour and Royal Gates** are not that old, though. Previously known as Brandenburg Gate respectively later on as Berliner and Anklamer Tor (gate), they both date back to the 18th century.

In fact, there are not many remains left from the medieval times except for a part of a medieval wall near the St. Evangelista Church and the **c. Maiden Tower**. The Tower is also known as the Tower of Seven Coats and there are several legends explaining the origin of the name. One of them reads that

a prince from the Gryphon's Dynasty ordered seven coats and he wanted to have them done by his tailor. However, the tailor also sewed one additional coat from the prince's material for his own wife. When the prince learnt about it, he got mad and locked up the tailor in a tower, where he was forced to work for half a year living on bread and water. This is why the tower was called the Tower of Seven Coats.

Szczecin is known as the city of greenery, and indeed there are fifteen parks and green zones altogether. The biggest and the most famous is the Kasprowicza Park with the unique Sycamore Avenue and the **a. Monument of Poles' Deed** depicting three eagles. They are to symbolize the effort of three generations of Poles put into the reconstruction of the country after the World War II.

Some legends related to the city of Szczecin are based on true events, around which people built their own stories.

f. The Emerald Lake in Zdroje District of Szczecin owes its name to the greenish colour of the water reminding of emerald. But it was not always a lake. It used to be an excavation place where limestone was mined. Then, in 1924, groundwater flooded the mine unexpectedly, killing a lot of working miners. However, according to one of the legends a gnome called Skarbek was hiding treasure in

the mine, which was protected with a spell. When miners found the treasure, they rushed to grab it with greed. Then the spell was activated and the water started to flow but the miners did not mind. Being overloaded with valuables, they began to drown. One of them holding a huge emerald tried to climb the bank. He clung to a beech root with one hand, while holding the emerald in the other hand. He still did when the gnome appeared and offered him "life or treasure". The miner chose life and let the emerald fall into the water, which then took on the emerald colour...

These are not all stories or secrets the city of Szczecin has to hide; in fact there are plenty of them. If you are lucky, you might see a pack of extraordinary and scary looking black cats running around the castle yard at dusk; actually, they are souls of dead people buried in the castle's vault...or a white lady who is considered to be Sydonia von Bork, blamed for putting a spell and consequently falling of the Gryphon's Dynasty...or, on every midsummer evening, you might hear the bells ring from "Głębokie" Lake, reminding of the tragedy of a town that was flooded as a punishment for idle and immoral life.



Colourful and fabulous **“Firebirds”**, which seem to take flight, were created in 1975 by Władysław Hasiór (1928-1999) – a famous Polish sculptor, painter, film set designer and a teacher. They can be even called “migratory birds”. At first they were located outside the castle walls, then they stayed a while at Zgody Square until they finally found their place in the Kasprowicza Park.

Sedina
sculpture
made of sand
during
the Seafaring
Days 2008



Image of a winged lion with a head and talons of an eagle, which is present in the Szczecin's coat of arms, originates from ancient India and Mesopotamia. This legendary dragon known as a gryphon was also present in the Greek and Roman mythologies having been the guard of treasure. **The gryphon** was also considered to be the guard of the gold of the north – the amber...

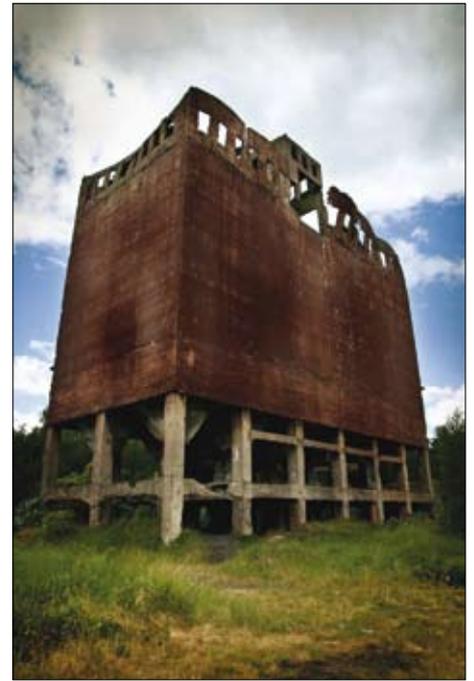


sedina



Certified by Guinness, **the Pioneer Cinema** is the world's oldest cinema still in operation. It was opened as the Helios on 26th September 1909.

Ruins of an old factory of synthetic petrol in Police (Hydrierwerke A.G.), which was created in 1938. In 1944 it covered an area of 1500 ha and had 27,000 workers. In addition, there were labour and concentration camps with another 30,000 prisoners. The factory produced 400,000 tons of synthetic petrol per year. The work was mainly done underground...



Did you know that **Stoeber** factory at Wojska Polskiego Avenue started producing cars at the end of 19th century? Until the end of the World War II about 42,000 cars of different kinds were assembled in Szczecin including a famous Stoeber S8 model with an statuette of a gryphon on its bonnet.



How it all began



Bartłomiej Sochański knows best what the preparations for the establishment of the Corps in Szczecin looked like. He was Mayor of the City from 1994 to 1998, when Szczecin was preparing to welcome the Corps. He has remained a friend and supporter of the Corps until today. As Honorary Consul of Germany, he maintains close relationships with the MNC NE personnel.

Anna Gałyga: What associations do you have with MNC NE?

Bartłomiej Sochanski: First of all, these are very good and warm reminiscences from the years 1997 – 1998 when I was Mayor of the City of Szczecin and when the establishment of the Corps in Szczecin was discussed. I probably was among the first to discuss the establishment of the Corps in Szczecin or rather moving the Corps from the Danish-German borderland to Szczecin.

Would you tell me more about those talks and preparations?

When I heard the rumour that Szczecin had been taken into consideration as a seat of the Corps, among the staff of the City Board we came to the conclusion that it was a chance for the city to create its multicultural character, obtain additional funds and gain new people. That is why I presented the city's potential during a meeting with delegates of the Defence Ministries of

Denmark, Germany, Poland as well as NATO held at the garrison headquarters. Of all the issues discussed at that time, the officers were most interested in an international school. From the very beginning the city actively engaged in the establishment of that school.

The city opened a special office for a liaison officer in Wojska Polskiego Avenue before the Corps was established. A German colonel, who has recently retired, coordinated all accommodation matters and supervised renovation work. As Mayor I also hosted persons whose task was to establish the Corps. Later, at the Castle of the Pomeranian Dukes took place an event during which an agreement on the establishment of the Corps was officially signed.

Did the issue of the “Corps as a part of NATO military structure” emerge along with the conception of Corps?

Yes, of course. We were very interested in it and we were proud.

Did this help Szczecin to become better known in Europe and the world?

Yes, we saw it as a kind of pioneer-like experience. Anything that had to do with Europe and NATO was very appealing and we all were very enthusiastic about having a NATO formation in Szczecin. In my opinion the Corps received a very warm welcome in the city.

What were the city's hopes and expectations in connection with the establishment of the Corps in Szczecin?

First of all, those who come to the city and make their money here are the source of the city's prosperity. For a reasonable host anyone who arrives to the city should be treated seriously as a contribution to the development of the city, all the more that it was an entire Corps. Secondly, arrival of new residents generates a number of new services such as construction services, renting flats and houses and education. Anyhow, I am of the opinion that the city benefits from its cultural diversity and people who come to the city and stay here, regardless of whether they go to swimming pool, play golf, go to theatre, cabaret or if they just enjoy drinking beer in the downtown.

What were the early relations like between the city and the Corps?

I was Mayor of the City until November 1998, while the agreement on the establishment of the Corps was signed at the end of 1998. I was in contact with a German colonel who was in charge of the organisation of the Corps. He asked me to introduce him into Polish public and economic life.

However, as Mayor I was not in touch with the newly established Corps.

Since I became Honorary Consul of Germany in 2000, I have visited the Corps Headquarters as a part of my duties in connection with the Geneva Convention, which is taking consular care of German citizens. I always attend celebrations of German national holidays organised by the German National Support Element. My ties with the Corps are close both because of my honourable function and because I personally know former and present German staff members. I feel bound with the Corps.

Has the Corps become a part of Szczecin?

I think, yes. The process has been relatively fluent and peaceful. As Mayor of the City I feared that residents of Szczecin might not be mentally prepared to accept German uniforms in the streets. I was anxious that some old resentments would revive but nothing like that happened. It was a pleasant surprise to see the city residents accept the Corps. The Corps has become an inherent part of Szczecin. Numerous relationships were established - this time private ones, while the staff members often consider settling down in Szczecin or its vicinity. Yes, I think you can say that the Corps has grown into Szczecin.

Do you see any social or cultural effects of the Corps' presence in the city?

The establishment of the Corps and its development is the city's great asset. The underlying idea was that if the Corps were ever to have any social effect, its staff would have to be living in various parts of the city just like

I feel bound with the Corps.

other residents. And this is what happened. The Corps' community can be seen in various places in Szczecin. The Corps' members are members of Rotary Clubs, go hunting, play golf and take part in other forms of social life. I often see MNC NE officers take part in Polish national and local events.

And does the deployment to Afghanistan have any significance?

I think it has been noticed and this has been reflected in the press. However, in my opinion it has not been fully exploited politically taking into consideration that this was the first such case in centuries when our troops as a part of a multinational coalition took part in a peacekeeping mission.

What will be the Corps' role in 10 years from now?

Trying to foresee the future development is always difficult, but I do not think that anything is going to change. The Corps will still exist in Szczecin. I just hope that it will serve nicer purposes rather than typical combat operations. I wish that politicians would navigate carefully through the meanders of today's complex world so as to reduce the number of armed conflicts.



THE YOUNGEST MAYOR

Anna Gałyga: Has the Corps become an inherent part of Szczecin?

Piotr Krzystek: The Corps has successfully become a part of Szczecin, a cross-border and open city which lies closer to numerous European capital cities such as Berlin or Copenhagen than to Warsaw. Besides Poles, it is Danish and German service members that

constitute the core of the formation. We are happy that Szczecin has been awarded in this way and that the Corps has its seat here. The military has always played an important role in Szczecin and so this is a continuation of a certain tradition.

We consider it of crucial importance to foster the cross-border aspect. In this context our cooperation with the Corps is significant. We want to

make Szczecin open to the outside, to Europe. The city is considered Poland's only cross-border city which lies not only in Poland but also reaches beyond the border and I think that it will produce concrete results in the future. The Corps' operation is a great contribution.

The Corps had already been operating for 7 years when you were elected Mayor of the City. How do you perceive the Corps' operation?

First of all, as Mayor of the City I see the Corps' operation in the political dimension. It is a display of cooperation of armed forces working together within NATO. This is also an accentuation of Szczecin's role as the Corps' seat, which is an important linking element in reciprocal relations. We feel the Corps' presence in various situations and the Corps' representatives participate in celebrations of national, municipal, and local holidays. I personally am glad that the Corps has marked its presence in the local community. The servicemen are living in Szczecin, meet friends among the city's residents, and use the city's infrastructure. Here is the international school that has become the city's important asset. The school has been established thanks to the Corps and now it not only educates children of the Corps' servicemen but also children of businessmen and other residents of the city.

Has the city's importance increased because the Corps has been established just here?

Certainly, it is a matter of prestige.

The sheer fact that the Corps Headquarters is situated in a city some 500 km away from the capital speaks in favour of Szczecin. To Poland, an experienced and combat-proven NATO member, this is an important point of stabilization.

What do you think about the relations between the city's authorities and the Corps?

Frankly speaking we have had a closer cooperation with Polish formations, for instance the 12th Mechanized Division, but our relations with the Corps are very good. We meet at various occasions, exchange views and support each other. We feel the staff members' friendliness towards the city officials. Our cooperation has been good and I am convinced that we will develop it further.

How do ordinary residents of the city perceive the Corps?

I think the image is very positive. Generally, representatives of armed forces are well received in Szczecin. Residents of Szczecin place a lot of trust not only in the Polish Armed Forces but also in the Corps. The city residents are open to foreigners and receive them with friendliness, which can be seen everywhere. I hope that officers and non-commissioned officers delegated to the Headquarters consider Szczecin a friendly city, too.

What benefits of the Corps' presence in the city have you noticed?

As far as education is concerned, it has been important to establish an international school. Such schools

providing multilevel education are rather rare in Poland. The Corps' presence in the city translates into various cultural and national events which provide opportunity to display traditions of the countries. Especially our relations with Germans are intensive. Thus, as far as learning about each other and education are concerned, it is a very good development. Of course we have contacts with ambassadors of countries whose soldiers are delegated to the Headquarters, which translates into various common events. Certainly, the Corps is an additional factor that helps shape the contacts and brings us all closer to each other to make the European organism more coherent and homogenous. This can already be seen in the economy.

How does the Corps fit into the city's new concept of promotion and development?

We are preparing activities to promote Szczecin as a part of a new image building strategy. Certainly, the Corps perfectly matches the city's openness, cross-border and transcultural features. After World War II Szczecin became home to immigrants from all over Poland and the world, which makes the history of Szczecin itself very complicated. On one hand the Corps lends credence to our message, and on the other it may allow us to combine many projects within the image building strategy. Military cooperation, getting to know each other, the synchronization of certain actions gives us confidence that we are a homogenous structure, that we can solve problems together and I think that this makes us all feel safer.



Mr. Piotr Krzystek – (born in 1974) a Szczecin legal adviser. His career in the public administration began in 1998. Since 2006 he has been Mayor of the City of Szczecin, in fact, the youngest Mayor Szczecin has ever had.

His patronage over the project of promoting Szczecin as an open, cross-border and transcultural city perfectly matches the nature of the Multinational Corps Northeast. Being familiarized with the Corps' activities, he talks about mutual relations between the Corps and Szczecin.



LTCOL. URMAS PAJU
EST A, G-5

What do you think about Szczecin?

It is a nice city, I have already lived in Warsaw and I prefer Szczecin. It is a very compact city and you can easily get from one side to another in half an hour.

Can you recommend any places worth seeing in Szczecin?

Of course, next to the Odra River – Waly Chrobrego and the old city, which I really like, the architecture is German. It is a green city with many places around where you can just go for a walk. There is Glebokie Lake close to my house and it is nice place to ride a bicycle with children.

What is the best place to have some rest?

To have some rest I go next to the seaside, which is not so far away from Szczecin.



MAJ. ROBERT BAE
USA A, G-4

What do you think about Szczecin?

Yes, I love the city. First of all, Szczecin itself is a fairly big city; I was told that the city is about 7th largest city in Poland. For me it is very fortunate to be and to work in a bigger city environment, because bigger city means more resources and more things to offer.

So what do you like about the city?

I like to go out, dining, there are a lot of good restaurants and for shopping it is also very convenient. It is situated close to the border so you can actually cross the border in 20 minutes and it takes about two hours in boom to get to Berlin. I think we are conveniently located.

Which are the most beautiful places?

I have not had really chance to explore a lot of other places in Szczecin but I like the water front I would go there once in a while, I try to take my kids there to take a couple of photos, there are nice restaurants, too. I guess for shopping I take my family to the biggest shopping centre "Galaxy" once in a while, everything is collocated there, a nice and a very modern mall, too.



CPT. PETER KOVACS
SVK A, G-2

What are your impressions about Szczecin?

It is a big city, which is very similar to our Bratislava in terms of the size and the number of citizens, but Bratislava is more developed than Szczecin. I think the location of Szczecin is an important advantage of the city; it is close to Germany and close to the Baltic Sea. The history of the city is very interesting, too.

What do you like about Szczecin?

A lot of green streets are very nice especially during the spring and summer time. A little bit outside Szczecin there is Miedwie, which is also very nice. Every time when I have some visitors, we go to Waly Chrobrego, the harbour, which I think is very interesting. When the weather is good we try to take a cruise around the Odra River, and of course I think Café 22 it is the best place for visitors to see the panorama of Szczecin.

What surprises you here?

I think the traffic within the city centre is something I am not used to. I miss some place where there is no traffic.



WO ZBIGNIEW PILATOWSKI
POLA, G-1

What is your impression on Szczecin?

We came from a smaller city, so at the beginning the difference was tremendous- big city, many opportunities, cinemas, theatres, concert hall, opera, parks. We were positively astonished. However, as the time passed, we started to notice certain drawbacks – no aquapark, for instance. Generally, there is nothing to complain about, though. One can live a good life here.

How can you spend your free time in Szczecin?

It depends on priorities. I like to go with my wife to the cinema to see a Polish film, but maybe somebody who is in Szczecin for the first time would like to do something else, see some other places and would rather not waste any time on the cinema. I think that Jasne Blonia is a really nice place if the weather is fine.

Will you come back to Szczecin after your service is completed?

I think we will come back to Mazury. However, I will visit Szczecin if only I have the occasion to. You feel a sentiment for a city you spend several years living in, certain places you used to go or work in. It would be great to come back to Szczecin after 10 or 15 years and compare it with the time I have spent here.



MAJ. JOSEF TOMŠIČEK
CZE A, G-4

What are your favourite places in Szczecin?

I live close to the Kasprowicza Park, so this place is great. We usually hold meetings with my friends there; we can stroll around and have a good ice cream in a café. The other place is Jezioro Głębokie because I run 15 km around the lake once a week and I can see how nature is changing. I always meet a lot of people there so it seems that other people like this place, too.

What are the advantages of living in Szczecin?

I live close to the city centre, which means that sometimes I do not have to use my car, but I can walk to work. It is not a largely spread city and I can get anywhere within an hour. This is great compared with moving in Prague, where I normally live.

Will you come back to Szczecin when you finish your tour of duty?

I would like to go for a half-marathon in Szczecin and my wife likes the Baltic Sea very much, so I am absolutely sure that we will come here together with our son to see how things will have developed.



MSRALF NICKOLEIT
DEUA, G-6

What do you think about Szczecin?

I like Szczecin very much because of the mix of different people – students and older people. The place I like most is Wąły Chrobrego and I actually live nearby. It is a very calm area surrounded by the park, and in the summer time there are a lot of events there. It is very close to the city centre so we can go there on foot. I also go for walks to the park where the Pope's monument is. It is very nice; you can always combine it with ice cream or coffee. But it took me some time to get used to the road condition and the traffic itself.

What advantages of living in Szczecin can you notice?

The biggest advantage is that I have met my wife here. But I also met a lot of people from other countries. One of my best friends is from Norway; he is studying medicine here and due to this fact I have known a lot of other foreigners. They live in a foreign country just like me so we exchange experiences and I get some views not only from Polish culture but also from their cultures and this is pretty good.

Will you come back to Szczecin when your duty is over?

I would like to stay longer if it was possible... But I will always have connections with Szczecin. After all, my parents-in-law live here.



MAJ. SAULIUS PALIULIS
LTU A, G-3

What do you think about Szczecin?

My first impression when I came here about one and a half years ago was that Szczecin is a green city, there are a lot of parks and lakes, and you can easily find places where you can rest with the family at the weekend after 5 days of work. Szczecin is really nice and it is also a quite old town, which is a little bit similar in style to what I can find in Klaipėda, where I live.

Was there anything that surprised you?

It was surprising that the roads were not in good condition. Now I can say it is better, it is completely different. And people are really nice and polite here.

Have you got any favourite places in Szczecin?

I like this place near Głębokie Lake for walking. One of my friends is living nearby and sometimes we meet to have a barbecue there. In the centre there is Brama Królewska, which is really nice and then Wąły Chrobrego with the Navy Academy. I was also in theatre and I can recommend to visit this place.



WO GERT LARSEN
DNK A, G-2

Do you like Szczecin?

I like Szczecin very much. There are three parts in Szczecin – the part with new buildings, the harbour part and the old part of Szczecin, so it has all, I guess. I like to visit the old part; I think some of the buildings down there are amazing. I like the water so the river area is fantastic for me. I think culturally it is a very nice city, too. Compared to Copenhagen, which for most people is a safe area, I feel much safer in Szczecin at nighttime; my impression is that people walking around in the nighttime are there for having fun only, no one will act violently. So I feel relaxed.

Is there anything that surprises you here?

The traffic. Polish people drive fast and without any real structure especially on roundabouts but there is something very good compared with the Danish way of driving – if you miss your driving lane, people will let you go. It will not happen in Denmark.

Is there any place that you would not recommend to visit?

Yes, that should be one of the biggest malls where all my money would be spent by my wife.



Lieutenant Colonel Hans Teglers, Danish Army, was awarded the title of honorary “Ambassador of Szczecin” by the City Major, Mr. Krzystek. The title is given to people who significantly contribute to promoting Szczecin, both in Poland and abroad. What has he actually been doing?

How is it to be Ambassador of Szczecin?

All I can say is that I was very surprised, deeply touched and

immensely honoured when I found out about this.

Have you known about your nomination before?

Not at all, it was a very big surprise. My colleagues told me that I was in the newspapers.

What is the importance of this title for you?

I treat this title as recognition from the city for being a good guest here. I have tried to promote the image of Szczecin and Poland firstly in Denmark but also elsewhere.

What have you been doing in detail to become Ambassador of Szczecin?

Recently I have not been doing so much because we prepared and went for the mission in Afghanistan. But before that, I had been engaged in activities involving a group of artists of Szczecin because my neighbour was an artist, too. First in 2001 together with a German colleague I got an idea and took an initiative to make an art exhibition for German, Danish and Polish artists; it took place in the Radisson SAS Hotel. Later on I promoted exhibitions of

AMBERS



artists of Szczecin in various galleries in Copenhagen and other cities in Denmark.

Were your activities related only to painting?

It was mostly painting because the artists I know are painters but I also arranged a small concert in the Trystero gallery in Szczecin. I invited a Danish opera singer to have a concert there together with a Russian pianist.

Have you got an artistic soul or is it the influence of Szczecin's atmosphere that

made you take an active part in the cultural life of the city?

I am interested in art, but actually it was by accident, as a lot of things in life are. I got to know my neighbour who was a painter and he introduced me to a lot of his colleagues. I learnt about modern Polish art and I could see that there was a lot of development. It was interesting because it was different from things I had seen before.

In general, people in Denmark do not know much about Poland and if they know something, it is not always nice. So one of the things I have tried to contribute to as much as I could was giving another impression about Poland first to my family and then to my friends and other people. Poland is a country in a very positive development, there is art and culture, and there are highly educated people. Over those years I have invited a lot of people down here – my family and friends and I think I sent everybody back home with a good impression of Szczecin and Poland. Of course, when they went back, they told it to other people who might not have heard another story of Poland before.

So what kind of art are you interested in?

I am mostly interested in painting and music, also classical music. But I do not like opera...

Have you got a favourite painter?

One of my favourite artists is Richard Mortensen, a Danish painter. And of course I like two painters from Szczecin – one is my neighbour Przemysław Cerebież-Tarabicki, the two others are his colleagues Wojciech Zielinski and Jarek Eysmont. I have paintings by all of them in my house. When I look at

art both in Poland and Denmark I can say they are top-notch painters, there is no doubt about that.

How will you use the title when your duty in Szczecin comes to an end?

I do not know if it helps me directly, but it is always positive to get recognition for having done something apart from your military job when being abroad. Of course I will tell and brag about it. And when I get a proof of the ambassadorship I will hang it on the wall so that everybody can see it. Szczecin is my second home I will come back here again to be with my friends and to look how things are going here.

Will you continue your artistic activity when you come back to Denmark?

Depending on time I have back in Denmark, I will try to keep in contact with the artists in Szczecin and see if I can help them and organise more exhibitions in Denmark. I will perhaps promote Danish artists in Poland, too? There were a few meetings in Szczecin, during which Danish painters met their Polish colleagues and that was also very positive.

What does Szczecin mean to you after 9 years spent here?

I have been living here for such a long time that I know Szczecin very well. Coming back here will always be like coming back home.

I have only had very pleasant memories about Szczecin. And of course I will keep telling people in Denmark and elsewhere about Szczecin and my stay in Poland. It will help people get a positive impression about this country. I will tell them to come here and find out more about Poland.

NATIONAL SUPPORT ELEMENTS



FROM TOOTHACHE TO BUYING REAL ESTATE

This motto lies behind functioning of the Danish National Support Element (NSE). Maj. Mogens Ryttergaard, Chief of the Element, develops this idea explaining that the only way to achieve 100% devotion to work is turning away the soldiers' attention from problems at home. Therefore, the role of the Danish NSE is twofold. On one hand, the Element is concerned with matters

namely Julegløgg. It is noticeable that the Danish Element takes care of not only the Danish community, but also members of other nations who do not have their National Support Elements in Szczecin. It applies to all nations, except for Germans and Poles. A unique relation is performed with one-person Slovak National Support Element, who cooperates with the Danish Element in matters related with housing, cars or taxes.

of military background related to manning issues, supply or monthly salary payments. On the other hand, the personnel of the Danish NSE assist Danish soldiers and their families in dealing with various housing, school or kindergarten matters, solving car problems, managing tax issues and answering any questions related to regulations of life in Poland or even ways of spending leisure time. It is also the Danish NSE that organises the biggest annual Danish event,

The Danish NSE has an extraordinary programme prepared for newcomers. Since the decision concerning the arrival is normally known up to one year beforehand, there is a lot of time to introduce newcomers to duty and life at the Headquarters and Szczecin, and for example prepare appropriate accommodation. When the newcomers finally arrive, a so-called sponsor family is obliged to take care of them and share all necessary experiences.

2in1

German soldiers in the Headquarters are in a unique situation since they refer to two institutions for support – German National Support Element (NSE) and German ODA (Office of Defense Administration). Both organisations have very clear, yet separate functions. The German ODA deals with all financial and housing matters including tax refund and car registration issues. The German National Support Element provides support to the Senior German Officer in all remaining military matters.

“Every German soldier having a problem can find his way to the German Element”, explains Capt. J. Singert, Chief of the German NSE. “For instance, if he or she wants some days of leave, needs medicine, new boots or trousers, or if he or she wants to know something about his or her future post”. In fact, with its personnel of 19 soldiers, the German National Support Element reflects a typical headquarters' structure with S-branches. S-1 Branch deals with personnel matters like

ALWAYS IN SUPPORT

The existence of the Polish National Support Element (NSE) is in fact a response to obligations of Poland as the host nation to the Corps. It has the most distinctive features in terms of its role and functions in comparison to other National Support Elements in the Headquarters.

The Polish NSE is created by its Command and Sections – Budget & Finance, Administration, Logistic, Infrastructure and also Medical Centre, altogether 49 personnel.

Even though the Polish NSE is not concerned with housing matters or assisting in solving every-day life problems, as Polish soldiers are not in service abroad, there are a lot of other responsibilities making the Polish NSE personnel busy. There are close relations between the Polish NSE and the Headquarters. They cooperate especially closely on the levels of personnel branches, for example during the process of recruiting soldiers for exercises as well as with the Headquarters Support Branch. One of the major tasks of the Polish NSE is to support the Headquarters solving infrastructure-related problems, which in practice means taking care of all electricity, plumbing matters as well as any kind of maintenance work in the Corps' facilities, explains Maj. Jerzy Łuckoś, Chief of the Polish NSE. Other obligations encompass the provision of medical care to the MNC NE personnel and their families. The Medical Centre offers assistance on daily basis and supports various Corps events. Moreover, the Polish NSE provides financial, personnel and administrative service for Polish soldiers from the Headquarters and Air Operations Co-ordination Centre, Headquarters Company and the Polish NSE. In most cases this service is also guaranteed for civilian personnel.

Even though the Polish NSE has been established with the primary aim to assist the Corps, it is important to notice that it is just a military unit, similar to other Polish units. It is also a distinctive place, where a small community of both military and civilian personnel is created. They not only work together but they are also friends who meet for common coffee or spend time off-duty together, for example on trips organised under the auspices of the Polish NSE.



evaluation reports and the coordination of incoming and leaving personnel, which has to be done in close cooperation with the Corps' G-1 Division. There is a S-2/S-3 Branch dealing with security matters and training activities like shooting or marching, which corresponds to responsibilities of G-2 and G-3 Divisions respectively. Logistic and supply issues are the responsibility of the S-4 Branch whereas S-6 is responsible for the connection with the German national communications network. The German NSE also provides medical assistance to German soldiers. Among others, the Medical Branch is responsible for medical check-ups and vaccinations as well as for making appointments with doctors in Germany and Poland.

In addition, the German NSE also promotes the German culture during organised events such as German Reunification Day or the Oktoberfest. Internal barbeques and other activities are also carried out to strengthen community relations.



GOING LIKE A

Headquarters Company (HQ Coy) can be described as kind of a silent hero serving the Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast. HQ Coy supports and in many cases influences appropriate and efficient functioning of the Corps. Among 140 personnel there are 15 civilians and 46 conscripts, while the remaining personnel are professional soldiers.

The main role of the HQ Coy is to support the Corps in any way possible starting with keeping guards and watches, through sending drivers for duty cars, filling posts of waiters and cooks in the Kitchen and three Clubs of the Corps, ending with delegating soldier for help in

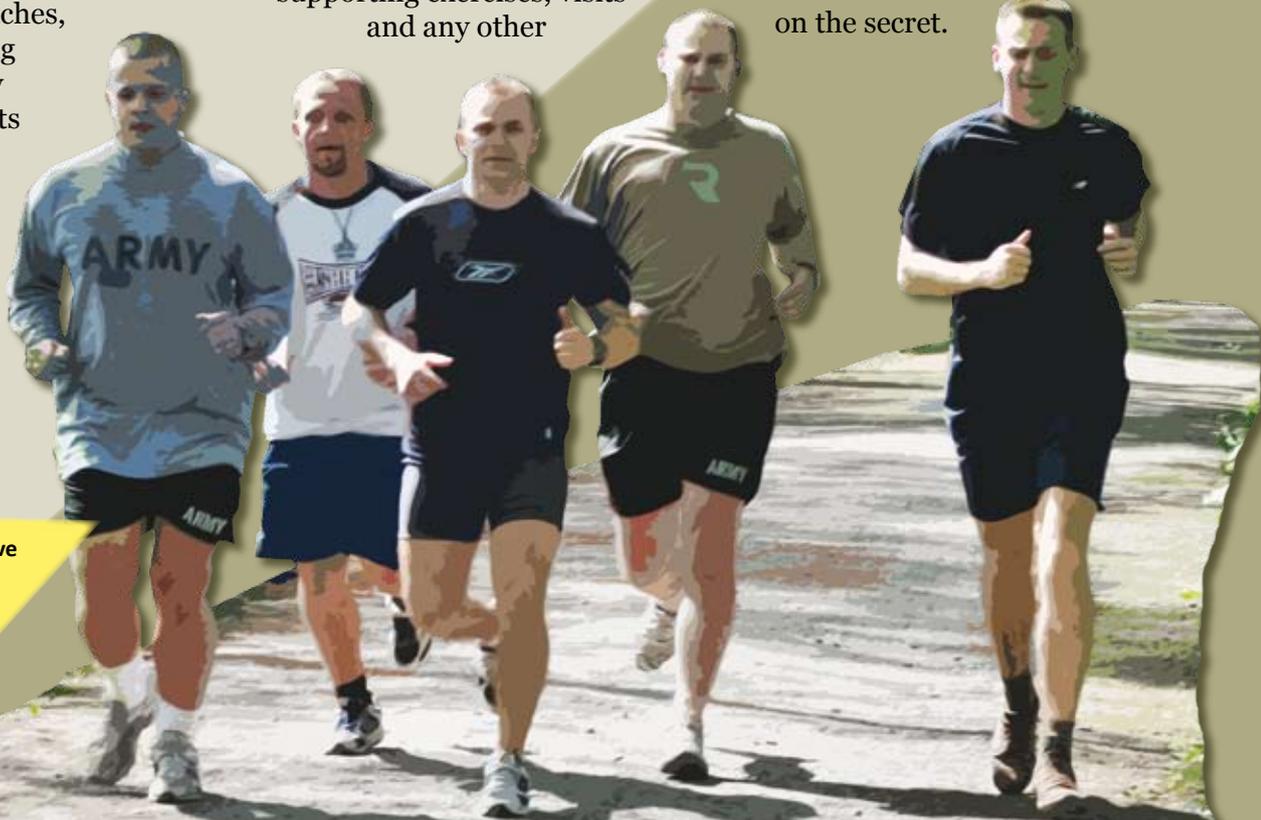
G-Divisions, explains the HQ Coy Commander Capt. Wojciech Wiczyński. The HQ Coy's activity is therefore visible in everyday life of the Corps. No matter whether someone enters or leaves the Baltic Barracks, decides to eat a meal in the Clubs or in the kitchen, goes on a duty travel or needs support in any other case – the contribution of the HQ Coy is essential.

The HQ Coy is directly subordinated to the MNC NE Chief of Staff, regardless of his nationality. However, in terms of tasks, the cooperation is developed with the Chief of the Headquarters Support. But as Capt. Wiczyński underlined, this subordination is especially related to some extra tasks referring, for example, to supporting exercises, visits and any other

Corps' activities.

It is important to notice that beside close relations to the Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast, the HQ Coy resembles a typical Polish military unit. In short, the soldier's days starts at 6:00 with morning fitness training, which is followed by breakfast. At 8:00 all soldiers line-up for role-call during which all tasks for a given day are shared among them. From 8:00 till 16:00 those tasks are effectively performed. When the supertime comes to an end, the soldiers have free time up to 21:30. It is obligatory for them to be back at the Baltic Barracks for the evening line-up.

To see how a soldier's day may look like in detail, soldiers decided to let us in on the secret.



Once a week soldiers have their Physical Training, for example in the area of Głębokie Lake

CLOCKWORK

Corporal Grzegorz Łanczkowski serves at the HQ Coy as a squad commander; once a month he and other soldiers from HQ Coy improve shooting skills at a shooting range



Guard commander supervising loading and unloading guards' weapons during the preparation to the change of guards at posts

LET'S GO CLUBBIN'

A soldier or a civilian spends her or his time in several places within the Baltic Barracks. Beside office area being the most obvious one, it can either be a gym or one of the Corps' five clubs — the Allied Officers' Club (AOC), Non-Commissioned Officers' Club (NCO), Enlisted Club, Allied Sports Club and Ladies Club. This time the focus will be placed on the first three Clubs only.

Clubs are open to members on voluntary basis. Although each club is financed by its respective board (in practice by the Corps), they are administered by the Headquarters Company (HQ Coy). A mess manager WO Maciej Kliński, together with his team, does a great job supporting various Corps' activities.

All for one, one for all!

There are five civilian and nine military workers at all three clubs and the HQ Coy employs them all. As WO Kliński states, the biggest challenge is to fill waiter's posts since they are also soldiers who are guards, participate in physical exercises and practice shooting etc. Taking into account all those responsibilities and compensation days involved, the mess manager has a lot of creative work to prepare the roster. Nevertheless, the clubs' personnel are fully satisfied with opportunities of service at the Corps.

„We start work at 8:00. I always try to talk to people to remind them what will happen during the day”, says WO Kliński, “I walk from one club to another trying not to tear the people away from work. Then the time runs very

fast. A cook has to prepare breakfast for 9:30 and then he has only 1.5 hour to make lunch”. What is served differs from one club to another and it is a matter of cook's choice made day by day. Breakfasts and lunches served at the clubs are just part of their activities, though. There are numerous smaller and bigger meetings, extra breakfasts and lunches supported by the Clubs as well as events for the whole MNC NE staff. Only in April 2008 NCO and AOC organised almost forty additional events.

On 24/7 standby

The Kitchen is another place where meals are served. The Kitchen functions on 24/7-basis throughout the whole year. It supports the members of the HQ Coy and the Headquarters with breakfast, lunch and supper. Altogether, the number of people eating at the Kitchen is about 150 persons per day. It can rise during official visits or exercises to as many as 800. Moreover, the Kitchen and the HQ Coy go beyond regular duties, the example of which are events for disabled children from the Association “Tęcza” or supporting celebration of the Polish Day at the Headquarters Joint Force Command Brunssum. All in all, the Kitchen's activities are impressive, especially if to take into account that only three military and eight civilian workers employed by the HQ Coy handle all the tasks. There are three cooks altogether — sergeant Wojciech Krajewski, lance corporal Paweł Łabecki and a civilian cook Wiesława Haberka.

The menu is planned for ten days ahead on the basis of agreement between a head

chef, a senior cook, a senior warehouseman and a canteen manager. Afterwards, it has to be accepted by the nutritional chief Warrant Officer Grzegorz Kiszczewski. A typical day at the Kitchen starts at 6:00 and only half an hour later first hungry consumers get ready for breakfast. The next meal has to be prepared for the noon. The day is completed when last people finish their supper at 18:00 and the cleaning is done. Obviously, there must be two shifts in order to fulfil all tasks of operating up to three points where meals are served, explains Staff Sergeant Ryszard Zieliński, head chef.

Joint endeavours

Apart from regular daily duties, personnel of the Kitchen and Clubs contribute to huge events like the New Year's Reception organised for the whole MNC NE personnel. Events for up to 40 people are usually prepared by the Clubs on their own, however, in case of bigger endeavours it is the Kitchen's responsibility to prepare all the food. Consequently, the mess manager is obliged to provide waiter's staff for the event. It is sometimes difficult as both the Clubs and the Kitchen partially continue their ordinary activities. For that reason, the mess manager may look for support from the outside. The whole event has to be carefully planned in advance including tablecloths, dessert forks or even waiters' fatigue. WO Kliński explains why the clubs cannot be simply closed: “It would be too easy; we have to prepare meals for the MNC NE staff anyway. Besides, there are also other people to be taken care of, like drivers, assistants or guards”.

MEDICAL CENTRE

No contraindications or side effects expected

Anyone who does not feel well enough can receive necessary medical support in the Medical Centre. Although the Chief of the Centre Cpt. Marek Baranowski is a Polish doctor, two nurses, a physiotherapist as well as drivers and medical lifeguards are Polish as well, multinational medical care blends in the corridors of the Medical Centre. Apart from the fact that patients come from different nations, there are also three other doctors – Danish, German and Polish, who on daily

German soldiers often go to Germany for necessary check-ups or medical care.

Danish soldiers as well as all other nations, except for Germans, Poles and Americans, cooperate with a Danish doctor. However, they often make use of Polish medical specialists' service in Polish hospitals.

The Polish part, which belongs to the Polish National Support Element, is a typical health care

pharyngitis, pneumonia, knee joint injuries and the like". There is even a small hospital ward; fortunately, it is rarely used.

It is important to notice that there are no clear national divisions in the Medical Centre. Although German or Danish soldiers would first address a German or a Danish doctor respectively, they would be also taken care of by a Polish doctor, if necessary. Polish nurses are always ready to support any patients that need help or have to make an



basis work at the Medical Branch of G-4 Division. A Polish doctor Maj. Suchowiejski explains that in general the Medical Centre consists of three parts – Danish, German and Polish.

The German part is independent in terms of medicine supply and in many cases also treatment,

clinic. Altogether there are about 200 patients registered – soldiers from the HQ Coy, military and civilian workers of the Headquarters, together with their families. Are there any typical cases the doctors are dealing with? Maj. Suchowiejski answers smiling, "just like in any basic health care surgery – flu,

appointment with a medical specialist.

An important responsibility of the Medical Centre is supporting any kind of Corps-initiated events. If there is need, a first-aid post is arranged or a medical team consisting of a doctor, nurse and an ambulance is ready.



ED IN THE MEDIA'S EMBRACE

The term a medium (plural media or mediums) denotes a way of communicating information and news to people. In fact it can be used in other contexts as well – as a synonym for ways of expressing ideas, a language used for teaching, not to mention technical dimensions of the expression... and there are as many meanings covered by the term as feelings evoked by it.

Journalist: a person without any ideas but with an ability to express them; a writer whose skill is improved by a deadline: the more time he has, the worse he writes (Karl Kraus)

Common connotations with the media seem to be rather negative. People often complain about journalists who prey on people's misfortunes, about their reporting revolving around power and money, about manipulation and deceit. There is some truth in these suspicions; overgeneralizations are harmful, though. Media attempt to give accounts of people's lives, which are never black & white. Neither are the media. As a result there are various kinds of media addressing all senses, there are different topics raised and presented from different angles. Language codes vary.

Messages contrast. People's expectations merge or conflict. And there is beauty in this diversity.

No matter what people's opinions on media are, most of us find at least a moment in the course of the day to have a look at a few articles on the Internet or in a newspaper, listen to the radio in the car while waiting for the light to turn green or sit in a favourite armchair and turn on the TV. We are viewers, listeners and readers. Media are around us. We are used to it and addicted to it. And it is only our choice how we make use of this addiction.

How to become media booster?

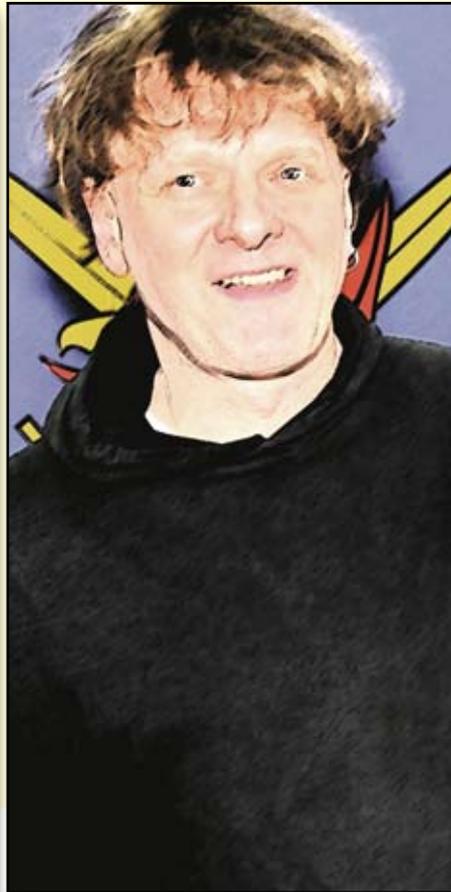
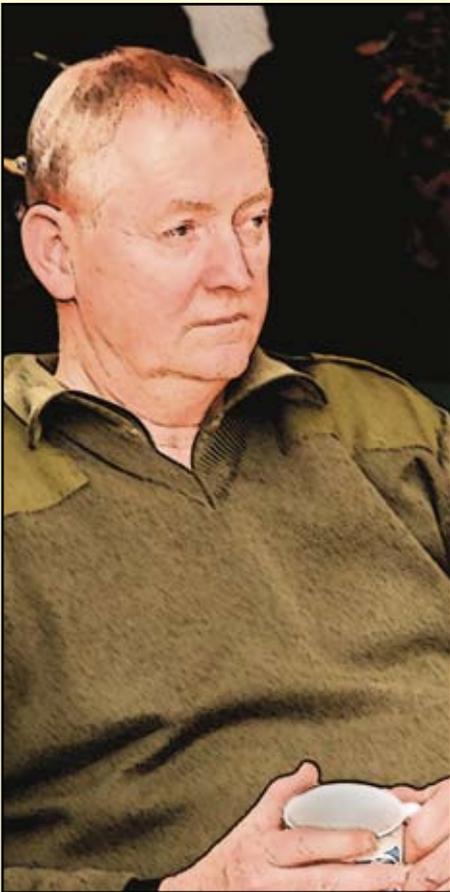
Mass media, broadcast media, visual media, print media, electronic media, news media, foreign media, hometown media, mainstream media... There are as many different ways of dealing with media as different types of media.

Practical guide how to deal with the media:

<p>Establish "ground rules" for an interview (not to be confused with "ground arms"...). Choose topics you want to talk about. And stick to it, otherwise you may be grounded...</p>	<p>Remember about the "master message" promoting your unit that should appear in all your answers – all PAO guys know them by heart, simply ask...</p>	<p>Present a good story to a journalist – emotional, touching, tragic, pulling at readers' heartstrings... simply a story you would never read (officially).</p>	<p>Off record statements are broadcasted on the main news.</p>
<p>Check your appearance. Seriously.</p>	<p>Don't wear sunglasses outside. Although there are video cameras, it is not the set of the film "Men in Black".</p>	<p>You are not a fortune-teller – don't say "what if" or what you don't know.</p>	<p>Answer one question at a time, you can try the other way but it might be dangerous though.</p>
<p>Ignore video cameras. After all, your gaffe will be shown to a couple of millions of people only.</p>	<p>Remember that answering "no comment" is not the best choice... When you say nothing, journalists can make their own story, not necessarily your favourite one.</p>	<p>Be careful of assuming friendship with a journalist; they may prey on your gently human psyche.</p>	<p>Forget your military jargon and abbreviations cuz j2luk (just to let you know) or ASAP (as soon as possible) may get you confused in another situation (lol – laugh out loud).</p>
<p>Journalists have nose for lies, so either avoid lying or do it perfectly.</p>	<p>Make sure you understand the question. Repeat it if necessary keeping in mind that a journalist's irritation increases proportionally to a number of repeated questions.</p>	<p>Be open and positive, firm-fair-friendly and smile a lot (if the topics allow), this will make your interview last shorter, at least theoretically...</p>	<p>Be transparent (remember to remove those things from your garment a journalist should not see).</p>

These slightly exaggerated and overcoloured comments and tips were to show you that with a healthy attitude to media even the devil's not so black as he is painted.

1 2 3



WHICH MEDIA TO USE?
HOW TO ADDRESS DIFFERENT AUDIENCES?
HOW TO HANDLE THE MEDIA IN THE MILITARY WORLD?
THREE EXPERTS WITH DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES AND BACKGROUND WILL DELVE INTO THE TOPIC.

Each person or institution is in favour of having a positive image, so what is actually the role of media in creating an image?

Mr. Pokatzky: Who creates an image of a prominent person, of a corps, of a car if not the media? We are the image creators.

How can MNC NE intentionally influence the process of image creation then?

Mr. Pokatzky: Try to find a professional relationship with journalists: take-and-give. Be firm-fair-friendly, and always be honest. The taboo is to lie; of course me as a journalist accept if you say "I am not authorized to tell you this" or "there are security restrictions". But I like politeness and friendly behaviour.

Maj. Nelson: I would suggest that the Headquarters should be more pro-active in telling the story of e.g. what you actually did in Afghanistan. You need to be able to get the media to come to you but you should also be able to make a good event and a good story.

How did this process of image creation look in practice?

Col Bruhn: The Corps' image was first of all created with the very big event when the Corps was established because that was especially good news for the area, where workplaces were needed very much. The establishment of the Corps was in itself in the first two, three years of its history an event that was worth writing about. But as the Corps had been here for three or four years, media coverage was going down. I would say that the next big event that attracted some press was the Full Operational Capability test in 2005. It was a possibility for the Framework Nations to say – "we started the project in 1999, here it is, NATO

has given it the seal of approval". And the third good event was the preparation for ISAF, our take-off, the mission itself and coming back home. We have to realize that if we do not make scandals, and fortunately we have made no scandals, we will probably not have many headlines in the press. You do not get a big headline just because you are clever and do your job.

What is the best media to cooperate with?

Maj. Nelson: If you want to get hold of the youth, you should not use newspapers because they would rather go for the Internet, they use different media from older people. Young people do not want to listen to long debates on the radio but they would like to listen to programmes with short news and a lot of pop music.

There is a huge difference even when you buy a newspaper – whether you like right or left-oriented or neutral newspapers.

Mr. Pokatzky: You have to work with all media but it has to do a lot with the issue you have. The problem is that TV is not that journalistic media I prefer. TV means one and a half minute and in our radio stations Deutschlandfunk and Deutschland Radio Kultur we have 7 or 8 minutes so that means we are able to cover an event in a really intelligent way. My personal challenge is to reach both a farmer and a professor; I am in favour of a very clear and understandable language.

But your Internet presence is a medium too, so you have your own media, you are part of this whole game. And if we see all the opportunities, our opponents do it as well – terrorists use the Internet as a media weapon. Terrorists have spokespersons now – think about it! They are making connections to certain TV stations; it is incredible.

That shows us the importance of making good media work for the Army. It does not only have to do with the image of the Army, it is part of the struggle, as Napoleon said – a bad newspapers article is more dangerous than the artillery of the whole army, it is absolutely correct...

How can we differentiate the audience?

Maj. Nelson: First of all, you need to clarify whom you are going to approach with your key messages. Then you need to discover the way to reach them and decide on the kind of language to be used. For me there is a big difference between talking

"WE ARE ALL AMBASSADORS FOR THE ARMED FORCES"

to a general, a politician, a teenager or a mother, whose son is staying in the Helmand province in Afghanistan.

Is there a difference between reaching so-called general public and local environment?

Mr. Pokatzky: One of the fascinating things about the Internet is that it has made every village global. But people in Szczecin read local papers, listen to local radios and they need to identify with an issue. You have a lot of interesting persons a reader, listener, viewer can identify with. The human is most important, the people in the uniform and behind the uniform. I do not think the Corps itself is that interesting.

Maj. Nelson: And it is extremely important for this Headquarters to have good relationships with

the local authorities, the local environment, schools, working places and institutions not only because people should know what you are actually doing but also because it is important for people coming to Szczecin from abroad to feel they are welcome here.

On the example of the Danish Armed Forces, what shall be the approach to dealing with the media?

Maj. Nelson: Five years ago the Danish Armed Forces were in a bad condition as far as handling the media was concerned. But we have realized that. When you do so, you need to put in a lot of effort – people, money and facilities but also know-how. You need to give people additional training or hire people with the required training. We have done that in Denmark but there is still a long way to go. Although we have a small Defence in Denmark with about 7,000 employees, they all are ambassadors for the Armed Forces. Whatever they say can be used as common opinion. Therefore the challenge for the Danish Army is training, training, and training in terms of dealing with the media but also internal communication within the firm itself. Internal and external communications go hand in hand.

And concerning the Corps?

Col. Bruhn: I think more active, more aggressive use of our homepage filled with more news – that is the way to highlight us. Perhaps we should be more active among some old school classes, 16-17-year-old teenagers, because young people can see that this Corps is part of the future. If this Corps wants to be more professional, it is important to fill new posts with very qualified people in the Public Affairs branch because if we ever get in trouble, it is the Public Affairs branch that has to fight the trouble for us, it is not the soldiers. The battlefield is in the information domain.

Were your previous experiences in Public Affairs domain different from what you have encountered at the Corps?

Col Bruhn: We have never faced real media pressure in this Headquarters. In my previous job as a spokesperson for the Danish Chief of Defence we had two, three serious media confrontations a week. But if you have an army of about 30,000 men, there always something happens somewhere that creates questions. So you are asked those questions 24-hours a day. Here you have your press office opened more or less from 8:00 to 16:00. Journalists might have phoned you if someone had been killed in Afghanistan but fortunately we had a peaceful time down there, the Corps succeeded, there were no accidents, no big events, everything went smoothly. This is how it goes in the Corps. We normally have only good stories and it is not really bad.

How about the future of the Public Affairs and dealing with the media?

Our experts' opinions go into the same direction. Maj. Nelson notices there is a need for being able to tell a good story yourself in order to balance between media presenting negative stories and the Corps telling its own story. As people get busier and busier, they would like to be given more qualified, easy, understandable information. This requires more and more technology to meet that demand. Now we can make an article on the Internet but the next thing is that people will look for movies; they want to have websites more like TV, adds Col. Bruhn. This fast development also influences the nature of journalistic work. A journalist who did only one story per day five years ago, makes two, three or five stories per day nowadays. Journalists will probably not be as well prepared as it could be expected; their research and consequently their work will be superficial, notices Maj. Nelson.

1

Col. Erik Bruhn, Danish Army, previous Chief G-1 Division

who knows the matters from the inside as he used to supervise Public Affairs matters for quite a long time.

2

Mr. Klaus Pokatzky is a German radio journalist and an

instructor at the German Academy for Information and Communication in Strausberg. Since 1994 he has had about 5,000 course participants, starting with ordinary soldiers and ending with two-star generals.

3

Maj. Lasse Nelson, Danish Army, is a leader of a training team

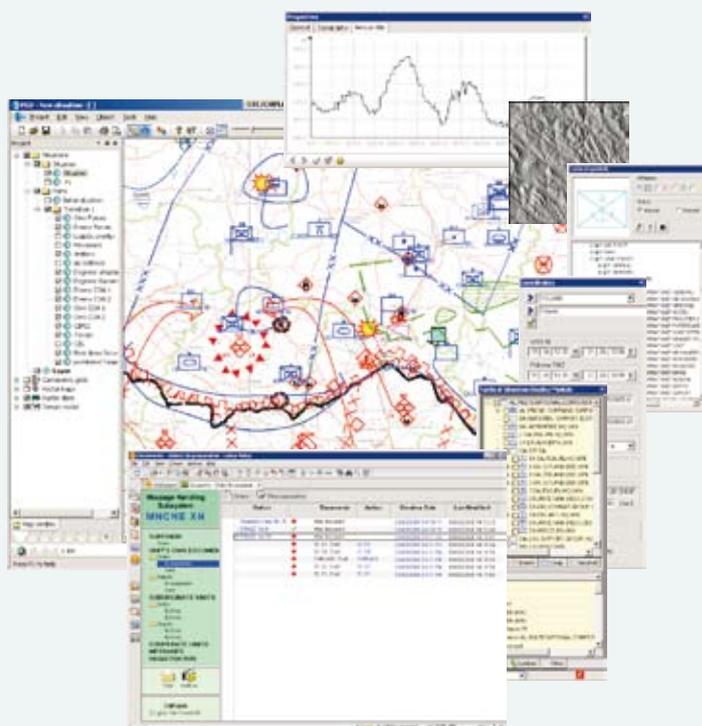
from the Royal Danish Defence Media Centre; he connects military and media worlds on a daily basis.



The **SZAFRAN** is a Polish tactical level C2IS aimed at Land Forces. It has been designed to support all phases of command and control cycle, speed-up planning and decision making processes, provide battlefield situation monitoring capabilities, introduce automation, standardization as well as integration and interoperability with other systems in joint and combined operations.

Operational capabilities

- Availability of current battlefield situation visualized on top of digital maps
- Full set of tactical symbols compatible with APP-6 and APP-6A
- Support for plans creation and situation modeling
- Estimation and assessment of terrain conditions (e.g. visibility & flooding zones, 3D)
- Common staff calculations (e.g. force ratio, resource aggregation)
- Safe and secure multi-user access to the system
- Simultaneous work on complex tasks like planning or command document preparation
- Command post's work-flow organization, document management and distribution
- Document templates in accordance with STANAG2014 and ADatP-3 B11
- MIP Block 2 solution implementation as an interoperability mechanism



Software environment

- TCP/IP communication protocol
- *Workstations:* MS Windows 2000/XP, MS Office 2000/XP, Lotus Notes
- *Servers:* MS Windows/Sun Solaris, IBM Informix DBMS, Lotus Domino

Hardware characteristics

- Environment temperature:
 - ♦ operating (major system components): -30°C to +65°C
 - ♦ storage: -40°C to +65°C
- Ability to operate under NBC warfare conditions



TELECOMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE S.A.
PRZEMYSŁOWY INSTYTUT TELEKOMUNIKACJI S.A.



ul. Poligonowa 30; 04-051 Warszawa, Poland
 phone (+48) 22 4865 455; fax (+48) 22 4865 453
www.pit.edu.pl



MAJ. JAROSLAV STOJAN
CZE A, G-2

From my point of view, media create a reality, which is sometimes too virtual unless a good balance is established. But definitely media influence our lives; everybody needs some flow of information.

What I am focusing on is some kind of really nice balance; the first thing I am interested in is information from the region where I live. Then the rest could be information from other parts of the world.

I think TV is the most powerful medium because it is more natural as it brings real live pictures from the spot. People can imagine what is going on if there is moving picture and some noise. But there is more time available on the radio for comments and analyses, not only 10-second video shots. The radio is more prepared, not so flexible in comparison to TV, but more analytic and therefore I like radio more than TV.



LTCOL. GEORGE MARKOS
USA A, G-5

In our business media go where a constituent cannot go and they report back. There are common complaints that media only report bad things but my experience has been that the media report bad news because you need to know it and a lot of times the bad news is more significant than the good one.

I am a news junkie; I will read the news and watch the news and a news show called the Daily Show on the Comedy Central, which started out as a joke but has become kind of a political force. I like our national big network news so I download it and play it on my TV. I look on the Internet; the US army also has a news service called Early Bird with a bunch of military relevant or foreign policy relevant news articles.

What is happening now in the world with the globalization and the Internet is that more and more people are getting more voice – they started writing on the Internet and at least in the US some of them have quite an audience. Basically if you are good, people will listen to you and read you. What I think is dangerous is that people are selecting the media that fit their beliefs and that may not necessarily be healthy. But without the free press we are living in some place that none of us wants to live.



LTCOL. MANFRED STEIB
DEU A, G-1

Media denote a very broad term, we have serious and respectful media, and media gaining for sensation; you have to see what is the purpose of media – to sell or inform. The world is very complicated today so if you were not informed, you would not be able to work for or against something. If the media did not exist, it would be simply very difficult to get the information, which we need every day.

I can imagine there are people who rely only on TV, but I for example use the radio because I am very often in the car and I travel long distances. On the other hand when I come home in the evening, I watch news on TV. I have also been reading a newspaper on a regular basis for the last 35 years, which is "Süddeutsche Zeitung", and it has already become part of my everyday life. But I do not use the Internet for information at all.



LTCOL. RADOSLAV JELINEK
SVK A, G-3

Without media the world would be really boring and I cannot imagine living without daily information about my hometown and the world. I think TV is the most powerful medium as you can listen to it and watch it at the same time and it is the biggest influence you can imagine. The Internet is also powerful but I think it is not available for everybody. But for me the Internet is the most comfortable to find information I need in time; I just write a keyword and I have a lot of offers. It is not so easy to find something specific in a newspaper.

I have had a lot of experience with media so far but it was not always positive. It was always a big surprise to see the results of an interview; there was usually something I did not say. But journalists are often influenced by some agencies. That is why some information given to people is a bit different or changed so it is a powerful tool to influence big mass of people in a very short time.



LTCOL. ERIK MICHAELSEN
DNKA, G-4

Media provide a way to show what is going on in the world. We are not sitting behind four walls in isolation. The media have a great impact on how we are behaving in the society and what we are thinking.

Different types of media address the population in different ways, and if you want to grasp younger generation you should go via Internet, displaying dramatic events will go through TV because there you have an impact on both ears and eyes and if you go for more in-depth stories then I believe the radio is an important tool. So it depends on what you are looking for and which target audience you want to reach.

Although I have tried to avoid media for many years, now I have to learn to deal with the media in a new way. Today everybody needs to be able to convey his or her message so it is important to work together with the media.



WO JAROSLAW BYJOŚ
POLA, G-2

Media definitely exert an influence on us, form our opinions, show us what we should and should not like. We are influenced by what we see. We tend to believe in what we see and hear. Without media we would not know which information is true and which is not. I like the situation when information is delivered by 2, 3, 4 sources if the information differs. I can select something for myself. Obviously, media constitute not only a splendid source of information. They can facilitate the process of learning, can be the source of entertainment, etc.

Television exerts the most significant impact on people as it is most available. Not everybody has the access to the Internet, and not everybody likes listening to the radio.



LTCOL. NEEME KAARNA
EST A, G-3

Media are said to be the fourth power of the country. Media can destroy somebody or something, or they can take somebody or something from "zero" and make him or her a good person, a good company or a good case. Media are like a mirror; if you are doing wrong and they find out - they will show it.

For youngsters the Internet is the most powerful medium. Older people use more traditional media like radio and newspapers but I think that the press is the most powerful. On the radio and TV, news are short and everybody cannot look at it, but in a newspaper a topic can be developed, different experts can express their views there.

How do actually media work? It is business driven by extreme emotions - when somebody is killed, crashed, blown up or involved in a romance, most preferably with scandals included - this will draw media's attention.



MAJ. ALEKSANDRAS PETRULIS
LTU A, G-5

Media have the power to influence people's lives in many ways. Some call it the "fourth estate". Information is available without much difficulty. It is about science, travelling and tourism, finance, military and latest developments in these spheres. Some small events taking place somewhere in the world are immediately delivered to the audience. Media can form opinion of the public. It is the power but also responsibility to perform it in proper legal way.

Media have existed since ancient times as a means of spreading of information. Alexander the Great for example influenced opponent troops with favorable information about his own troops getting benefits of it.

Nowadays the media can even save the world by spreading the right values and worldwide concerns, environment issues for example. Media as a powerful tool can be used to bring us together as people but also to keep us apart. For example terrorists, who spread messages of hatred. It does not matter which type of media is used. It is important how it is used.

MNC NE Calendar 2008

Selected Events

January/May – Danish four-star General and Defence Attachés at the Corps

Out of numerous visits to the Baltic Barracks in the first half of 2008, two of them are memorable. In January, Danish Chief of Defence, General Hans Jesper Helsø gets acquainted with all Corps-related issues. In May, 33 Defence Attachés accredited to Germany from 31 countries and representatives of the German Federal Ministry of Defence learn about tasks and mission of the Multinational Corps Northeast.



25th - 28th February – Cool Gasket Exercise

Approximately 150 servicemen from 37th German Brigade, 1st Estonian Brigade, 1st Latvian Brigade, 7th Polish Brigade and MNC NE staff members are trained at this Operational Study Period, during which most of the work is done on computer screens. Cool Gasket Exercise is the next step towards the Crystal Eagle Exercise.



31st March - 11th April – CAS Seminar & Tungsten Sword Exercise

Air Operations Co-ordination Centre organises a seminar pertaining to Close Air Support and cases when troops in combat receive weapon supplies from the air. The academic part is followed by a flying exercise Tungsten Sword, during which aircraft flying over the range area hit targets like simulated radar sites, columns of tanks, fighter aircraft or tank platoons.



3rd April – Indoor Soccer Tournament

Eight teams from several uniformed services of Szczecin take part in this year's Indoor Soccer Tournament. Eventually, the cup goes to the team from Szczecin District Police Department, just like two years ago. The fact that the home team does not win the whole competition can be understood as a proof of the Corps' hospitality.



14th - 20th May – Compact Green Exercise

Soldiers from battalions constituting Command Support Brigade take part in an annual exercise codenamed Compact Green held in Wittstock, Germany. It is a purely static and technical exercise without a tactical background. Its aim is to test and exercise developing communications systems to serve Multinational Corps Northeast.



March/June – Rotation of Deputy Commanders at the Corps

In March 2008, after four years of service, the Corps' personnel say goodbye to the Deputy Commander MNC NE, Danish Major General Jan Brun Andersen. New Deputy Commander Major General Køppen officially starts his tour of duty on 1st June 2008. A handshake between Commander MNC NE Lieutenant General Zdzisław Goral and Major General Ole Køppen during the welcome ceremony on 5th June officially seals this beginning.

6th June – Construction of a new facility starts

The official commencement of the construction of a new facility takes place right at the construction site. It will house office space to be occupied by the Command Group and an auditorium for up to 600 people. After the Commander's symbolic act of laying foundations for the new building, there shall be no difficulties in completing the project in the scheduled 480 days.



23rd - 27th June – Little Eagle II: Crystal Eagle just around the corner

After a number of planning conferences and seminars, Little Eagle I and Cool Gasket exercises as well as two scouts to the Army Warfighting Simulation Centre in Wildflecken, Germany, the scene of the September-scheduled exercise, the Crystal Eagle exercise is almost ready for launch. Little Eagle II exercise is the final test, during which the MNC NE personnel are trained on similar positions within similar exercise structure and scenario.

18th July – Romania officially becomes the 10th nation of the Corps

As soon as the Note of Accession is signed by Romania during the 31st Corps Committee Meeting in March 2008, the road to the MNC NE is opened. When two first Romanian staff officers join the Corps' multinational family in July, the Romanian flag can finally be raised to flutter next to the one of NATO and all other nations' flags. The Corps is proud to have as many as 10 member states.





Major General Ole Köppen, a new Deputy Commander of Multinational Corps Northeast, talks about his very first impressions about the Corps, Szczecin and plans for the future.

#Sir, you came to our Corps just a few days ago. What are your first impressions?

I find the physical surrounding of the Corps excellent and I do really like the atmosphere here. People are relaxed but still with a high degree of professionalism. I would not say I am surprised because I actually had expectations that it would be a very nice place to work.

#Why have you thought it would be a nice place to work, have you heard about our Headquarters before?

I have already worked together with German and Polish officers and NCOs before and in the end it seems that we have the same way of dealing with problems. I think we match fairly well. We can find proofs of that in many cases, for example when I was serving at the Headquarters KFOR (Kosovo Force), there were around 30 nations and we also managed to find the right way.

#Apart from KFOR, have you got experience in working in a multinational environment?

Not really, but I studied at the Army Staff College in Camberley in England in 1988 and there were 48 nations represented. But being a student is a little bit different from being here. You have the hierarchy here; at the academy we were all captains, at least in the beginning. I served with the Zealand Engineer Regiment for the first years of my career. It was very common that the Land Zealand performed one or two major exercises a year with British and German units. So being Danish soldiers in the small army, we were quite accustomed to working with other nations.

#Do you consider working in such multinational environment an advantage?

Yes, because we are able to learn from each other. I also think it is important that Denmark

is present here at this Corps. It is very good that we pick up other nations and try to teach them and learn from them. Back in the late 1990s when it was decided that this Headquarters should be established, we saw first Polish officers coming to Rendsburg, I was an engineer battalion commander at that time attached directly to the Corps LANDJUT in Rendsburg. It was very strange for them to come to a NATO environment but when they found that we were normal people, they felt relaxed. I think it is tremendously important that nations get together in multinational headquarters and learn from each other. You have to realize that everybody has some ideas or stereotypes about the others and I think it is very good when we get together and find out that the stereotypes are groundless.

#How was it in KFOR where you had your last post?

I was chief of Joint Implementation Commission down there and it was half of the whole commission, the other half was led by a Serbian colonel in Belgrade so we were only six people at HQ KFOR. I have only fine experiences from my international cooperation.

#What expectations concerning your duty at the MNC NE have you got? What are your priorities?

Before I came here I thought the Deputy Commander could be very isolated if the Commander is handling the affairs and the Chief of Staff is running the daily business. But I can see now that there are quite a lot of tasks for me. The 10th Anniversary next year is going to be a huge and very interesting task to perform. I do not think I am going to change anything; at least I have not got any ideas about that by now. I think it is very important that we work closely together in the Command Group but also

among the branches. Working in a multinational environment is based on free discussions and that will always make things much better. We have an expression in Danish that you put your finger into the ground just to make you feel what is going on – this is what I normally do when I take up a new position. When I have got an idea what is going on then I can try new things. So for the time being, for the next weeks or perhaps months, I will just have my antennas wide out to feel what is going on and then I may discuss where to go.

#How do you see your role at the Corps?

I think it is too early to say that.

#What do you think about Szczecin?

We used “Google Earth” just to get an idea of what it is like. When I was in Stargard Szczeciński some years ago, I actually lost my way back home to Copenhagen. We even went through Szczecin. When I came home I told my wife and my fellow colleagues in the barracks that Poland is a nice country, I am not saying that to please anyone. In 2005 I took part in the NATO Joint Engineer Conference in Wrocław; it was the first time when we spent as long as a whole week in Poland.

As we have been unpacking all our belongings, we have not seen much of Szczecin yet. I am a bit concerned because I think there are too many shops for my wife here...People who have been here before told us that Szczecin is a green city. Of course, it is very mixed – new and old buildings, but I feel that the city has some sort of atmosphere. So we are actually looking forward to exploit it and find our way down here. I have not been at the harbour yet so I think my wife and me will take a boat trip.



**HEADQUARTERS
MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST
BALTIC BARRACKS**
ul. Łukasińskiego 33, 71-215 Szczecin, Poland
www.mncne.pl
contact@hqmncne.mil.pl