

# MEDIA COVERAGE



from Kabul  
Major General Jan Brun Andersen  
Deputy Chief of Staff Operations



**A TELECONFERENCE WITH DANISH  
GENERAL JAN BRUN ANDERSEN AT  
HQ MNC NE**

Polish Press Agency, March 14, 2007

The general discussed operational conditions in Afghanistan.

As the Danish officer said on Wednesday, the Corps' personnel are well prepared for the mission in Afghanistan. Some 160 personnel from HQ MNC NE, including nearly 70 Poles, have been deployed to Afghanistan. The remaining ones are mostly Germans, Danes and nine officers from among others the USA, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the Czech Republic Czech, who are staff officers. Gen. Andersen is deputy chief of staff operations at HQ of the NATO led ISAF operation in Afghanistan. "The preparation of the formation's personnel for the mission was so precise and fruitful that the mission preparation plan worked out by the HQ will be used by other formations in their preparation process to overtake the responsibility after the Corps in summer this year, said the general. He added that the deployed personnel were very well equipped and trained. The general said that the Corps' personnel had not taken part in combat operations. When asked about present involvement of Polish troops, including the crack unit GROM, in combat operations in Afghanistan, he said that that the Poles had been undergoing adaptation and preparation process. He admitted that the operation region in which the Poles would be deployed was difficult and that the Taliban there had been receiving help from across the border. However, he ensured that the ISAF forces were not expecting any Taliban offensive. We do not see any changes that may suggest an offensive, he said, and stressed that the Taliban would not be able to mount forces that might undertake a successful offensive. When asked about the hitherto biggest military operation codenamed Achilles, which has been conducted

in Afghanistan since the beginning of March by some 4,5 thousand ISAF soldiers, he said that in the entire responsibility area of ISAF there were no places where the Taliban had permanent positions. He conceded that there were places where the Taliban caused some problems, namely in the southern and eastern part of Afghanistan. The remaining areas are under our control, said the general. General Andersen said the cooperation between ISAF and the Afghan population as well as the civilian authorities was very good. We have been working together in all areas, he said. The MNC NE personnel are to be redeployed at the turn of July and August 2007. Some 60 persons have remained at the Szczecin-based Corps HQ, where so-called family care centre for the families of the deployed personnel is operating. As decided by the president of the Republic of Poland, up to 1,2 thousand Polish soldiers are to be deployed to Afghanistan and stay there until mid-October. The soldiers are to be stationed in three provinces: Ghazni, Paktika and Kandahar. Besides a manoeuvre battalion, which is the nucleus of the Afghan contingent, Polish special forces will also be deployed. Presently, there are some 300 Poles in the mission area. The commander of the Polish contingent, general Marek Tomaszycski, will deploy to Afghanistan at the end of March. Deployment of the subunits is to begin at the turn of April and May, so that the contingent can reach its full operational capability by the end of May. The Polish soldiers are to cooperate with the American 82 Airborne Division, local police and the Afghan armed forces which they will support in their search for illegal weapon, explosives and for personnel training. The MNC NE, which was established in 1999, consists of three national military formations: the German 14th armoured Division from Neubrandenburg (19 thousand soldiers), Polish 12th Mechanized Division from Szczecin (12 thousand soldiers) and Danish Mechanized Division of Jutland from Fredericia (18 thousand soldiers). The Corps is a part of NATO force structure. (PAP)

## **CONNECTION WITH KABUL**

Głos Szczecińska, March 15, 2007

Polish servicemen do not participate yet in combat operations in Afghanistan – said yesterday general Jan Brun Andersen, DCOS in ISAF HQ in Afghanistan.

Multinational Corps Northeast has sent 160 servicemen to Afghanistan. They will serve there until the end of July. Yesterday MNC NE organized teleconference with DCOS in ISAF HQ, General Andersen.

General Andersen confirmed that servicemen of the Corps did not suffer from yesterday's attack in Kabul. The explosion took place a kilometer from their military base. Our forces were sent to the site of the explosion to investigate whether our assistance would be necessary.

Polish servicemen from HQ MNC NE, Szczecin who were deployed several weeks ago in Kabul, do not participate in combat operations.

General Andersen revealed that Polish servicemen from GROM special forces currently are in the process of adapting to local conditions.

Soon 1200 Polish servicemen will be sent to Afghanistan. They are expected to serve together with American forces in the difficult area.

It is a mountainous terrain with high concentration of forces. The Taliban receive reinforcements from abroad – explained general Andersen – however there are no indications of the Taliban offensive.

As the general assured local community had a positive attitude towards servicemen on the mission and cooperation with local authorities went on very well.

The servicemen have already started preparations for their come back.

### **Corps in Kabul**

There are almost 70 Polish servicemen from MNC NE in Kabul, Afghanistan. Most of

them do not leave the base they are stationing in. Mainly CIMIC and PSYOPS servicemen as well as servicemen who cooperate with local institutions leave the base. The highest rank officer of the Corps is general Jan Brun Andersen, DCOS in ISAF HQ in Afghanistan.

## **GROM IS GETTING READY FOR ACTION**

Gazeta Wyborcza, 15 March 2007

Polish special troops are just about to complete their preparations for combat actions in southern Afghanistan, say deputy chief of staff operations at ISAF HQ in Kabul.

Danish general Jan Brun Andersen has been deputy chief of staff operations at the ISAF HQ in Afghanistan. Despite the allegations by the media, general Andersen claims that Polish troops have yet not taken part in combat operations. Since the beginning of March, there have been 100 members of special forces in the province of Kandahar; Bagram is base for 120 engineering troops and 70 Polish officers are working at the ISAF HQ in Kabul.

Polish special forces are preparing to reach their full combat readiness and this is why they have not been deployed in the field, said general Andersen yesterday during a conversation with a group of Polish journalists. They are expected to obtain the readiness by mid-April.

According to our sources in military circles, GROM has its base in a place in Pakistani borderland. Due to security, the name of the place must not be disclosed.

Official sources have not confirmed the information because Pakistan officially has not been involved in NATO operations in Afghanistan. I cannot say anything about it, said general Andersen briefly.

According to our informants GROM special forces are prepared to participate in "Nawruz" operation the purpose of which is to discourage

the Taliban from any major offensive. The servicemen are supposed to operate near the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, in the southern province of Kandahar.

General Andersen admits that Polish contingent of 1200 servicemen which will be deployed in Afghanistan at the end of April will have a very difficult task. It is known that our servicemen will be stationing in American area of responsibility in the southern and eastern regions of the country, including Afghanistan – Pakistan border.

Polish servicemen will be subordinate to the Command of American 82nd Airborne Division. They are supposed to constitute reserves for American forces and in case of such a need save them from oppression.

It is a very difficult region, it is the region of our main problems with the Taliban – says general Andersen. – However no regions are constantly controlled in Afghanistan, individual areas are temporary occupied by the Taliban, generally in the southern and eastern parts of the country.

General Andersen does not anticipate spring offensive of the Taliban. The Taliban are not able to gather such forces to organize successful offensive against NATO forces – he says.

## **OFFICERS ARE PROUD OF THEMSELVES**

Gazeta Wyborcza, March 15, 2007

Polish troops will be operating in rough terrain.

This is the opinion of the Danish general Jan Brun Andersen from HQ MNC NE who is deputy chief of staff operations in the NATO led ISAF operation.

160 officers of the Szczecin-based corps: mostly Germans, Danes and 70 Poles have been working at the ISAF HQ since mid-January.

We are nearly halfway into our mission and we will start planning our return soon, said general Andersen, who answered journalists' questions during a yesterday's conference.

It has turned out that we are very well prepared for the mission. Our Corps's mission preparation plan will serve as a blueprint by other HQ preparing to take over the duties in Afghanistan after us. We can be proud of ourselves.

The officers from Szczecin are manning various posts at the Kabul-based headquarters dealing with a wide scope subjects ranging from operations and cooperation with the civilian authorities to logistics. General Andersen is of the opinion that they have been fulfilling their tasks well. When asked about the operating conditions for the 1200 Polish troops, who are leaving for Afghanistan at the end of April, he admitted that they would be particularly difficult. The responsibility area of the American 82nd Airborne Division (the western and eastern parts of the country) is very challenging. This is where we are having the biggest problems with security due to operation of the Taliban.

Meanwhile, the HQ MNC NE is run by a few-dozen people strong team, including civilians. One of the main tasks of the personnel, besides routine activities, is taking care of the families of the deployed personnel.

The personnel of the individual nations take care of "their own" families, explained lieutenant colonel Helmut Foag. We organize small events, children games and trips for the families. The aim is not to let the families left by their fathers and husbands feel lonely. This care also includes aid in emergency situations. When necessary, the Corps will help to find a plumber, vehicle emergency service or provide legal assistance. A chaplain and psychologist are also available for the families.

The staff will be redeployed at the end of July.