

HQ MNC NE participation in Collaborative Effort II

Written by LTC Tobias Tesch
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Members of Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) are currently participating in an exercise lead by the Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia. The students of the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) and Civil Servant Course (CSC) started their exercise Collaborative Effort II on Monday, 19 March 2012, whereas the HQ MNC NE staff joined in on 28 March. Collaborative Effort II will last until 2 April.

During the exercise, 55 students of both courses from 13 different countries are supported by 33 personnel forming so-called Directing Staff as well as Subject Matter Experts from various military, civil and academic institutions, including HQ MNC NE. The students have been divided into two Joint Operational Planning Groups (JOPG); their task is to develop a plan for Multinational Joint Peace Support Force operations in a fictional scenario, similar to the one Multinational Corps Northeast is going to use during its major exercise this year - Crystal Eagle 2012.

During the Operational Planning Process, the JCGSC officers apply their knowledge of topics, such as Comprehensive Operations Planning Directive, capabilities and employment of the components, operational level command and control principles, functional contributions to the

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operational level planning as well as media relations.

This year, a number of innovations have been introduced in the exercise Collaborative Effort II. One of the most important ones is the participation of the air and land component Subject Matter Experts from HQ MNC NE. The contribution of the functional NATO component level Headquarters adds a significant value to the exercise and opens up opportunities of parallel planning to the JOPG planners.

Since the beginning of the exercise, the coordination among the Land Component Command, Air Component Command and JOPGs has been done through video teleconferences. HQ MNC NE G-6 Division was very helpful in this regard, creating the right environment and technical conditions in their rooms so that HQ MNC NE representatives could participate in the exercise even before going to Estonia. This for sure has positively influenced the conducted of the exercise.

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Photo by Baltic Defence College