

Multinational exercise Crystal Eagle 12 is over!

Written by AG
Friday, 11 May 2012 15:43



Friday afternoon marked the end of the largest multinational exercise in Denmark since 2004. With massive 18 nation strong multinational participation, the exercise shows the way ahead for defence forces as well as its allies.

During the past 10-15 years, no western nation has singlehandedly conducted larger military operations abroad. The unwritten convention in our part of the world dictates that military deployment takes place within the framework of a multinational, allied or coalition force. The examples are many and well known: the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and – if UN is included – the Middle East and East and West Africa etc.

And it was exactly the multinational aspect which formed the centre of gravity of the last weeks Crystal Eagle 2012 command post exercise, conducted in Nymindegab, Denmark and led by Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE), with its headquarters located in Szczecin, Poland.

With 18 participating nations, the two week long Crystal Eagle exercise was mirroring the massive interest for multinationality in modern military operations. Even soldiers from the non-NATO nation Austria travelled the long way to Denmark, to exercise staff procedures in a truly multinational environment.

Multinational exercise Crystal Eagle 12 is over!

Written by AG

Friday, 11 May 2012 15:43

"The valuable experiences from this exercise confirm that multinational exercises are the future. By adding a massive multinational element, we have had the possibility to train in a transnational environment – across nationalities, qualifications and experience. It has provided a tremendous pay-off – both amongst our headquarters staff, but in particular amongst the training audience, e.g. the 12 German Brigade, 2. Danish Brigade or 2. Polish Brigade. During the exercise the personnel from these brigades have operated in a genuine multinational staff set-up as it is now e.g. in Afghanistan", explains Major Marcin Czekalski, who has followed the exercise on close hand for the whole preparation process.

The exercise was concluded with the exercise parade, during which the Commander Multinational Corps Northeast Lieutenant General Rainer Korff has expressed his gratitude for the dedication and professionalism of the soldiers and handed over small gifts to the best of them. The parade has also been an excellent occasion for rewarding with the Corps Medal, the highest reward, which can be given by the MNC NE Commander. This unique reward has been presented to the Command Support Brigade for its outstanding support provided during the Corps exercises and to Warrant Officer Alan Sandler from the Danish Army for his excellent service and performance.

Multinational Corps Northeast was established in 1999 by the Ministers of Defence of Denmark, Germany and Poland, and these three Framework Nations are the main contributors. In the meantime the interest for this truly multinational unit has grown, and today national flags of 12 nations wave in the wind in front of the headquarters.

Text: LTC Resenbro, DNK A

Photos: Marian Cihon, SVK CIV