

## Polish Armed Forces' Day at Baltic Barracks

Written by AG

Tuesday, 14 August 2012 12:40

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**International community of the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) gathered at Baltic Barracks in Szczecin to commemorate the Polish Armed Forces' Day, the most important day for Polish soldiers. The celebrations organised by the Polish staff of the Corps were held on 13 August 2012.**

*"Multinational Corps Northeast, in which I have the honour to serve, reflects the cooperation of the countries being NATO member states. This is the place where multinational forces together take on challenges,"* said Major General Bogusław Samol, the MNC NE Deputy Commander and the host of the ceremony.

*"I am convinced that the Polish soldiers will carry out their responsibilities in a proper way. I know they will successfully handle most difficult tasks and show the traits long attributed to the military: creativity, professionalism and responsibility. Our countrymen seeing duty here are the best ambassadors of the Polish uniform,"* underlined General Samol.

The MNC NE Deputy Commander also talked about the battle of 1920, known as "The Miracle on the Vistula River". The Polish victory over the Red Army saved Poland's independence which had been regained after 123 years of Poland's absence on the maps of Europe. *"The heroes and real authors of the victory were Polish soldiers, who set off to fight ready to die. This great lessons of 15 August 1920 should always remain alive in our memories,"*

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said General Samol.

Among the invited guests were members of the Polish Parliament, regional and municipal authorities, representatives of the uniformed services, clergy, the worlds of culture and education and a special guest – Colonel Ulrich Kirsch, the Chairman of the German Armed Forces Association. Since representatives from other Corps' nations and the families of all HQ service members took part in the ceremony, it had a real international and family character.

As usual, the Polish Armed Forces' Day was an excellent opportunity to award the best soldiers for their service and dedication. On behalf of the President of Poland, the service members were decorated with "Stars of Afghanistan" and "Medals for Long Service", whereas on behalf of the Polish Minister of Defence – with "Medals of the Armed Forces in the Service of the Fatherland" and "Medals of Merit for National Defence". One soldier received the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal for his service in the mission in Afghanistan.

*"I wish to congratulate all those promoted. The medals conferred on you confirm your skills and experiences. You have contributed to reinforcing the defence of your country (...). Your work does help all us feel safer,"* stressed the Vice Voivode of Westpomeranian Voivodeship, Mr Ryszard Mićko.

An interesting attraction of the ceremony was the presence of the historical re-enactment group from the Police Shooting Association and Enthusiasts of the Old Weapon "Grajcar", performing as the Infantry Regiment Fourth of the Warsaw Duchy. The three salvos fired from historical regimental artillery cannon coming from the 18th century was the highlight of their performance.

After the official part of the ceremony, a barbeque at the Jutland Garden was organised for the HQ members, their families and invited guests.

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*Photos by Marian Cihon, SVK CIV*