

MNC NE at Anakonda 12

Written by MAJ Marcin Czekalski
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On 18 September 2012, more than one hundred and fifty personnel of Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) and other supporting units, who arrived at the military base in Wałcz for Anakonda 12 a couple of days ago, launched Mini Exercise to do the last check before Anakonda 12.

The five days leading to the MNC NE participation in the Anaconda 12 exercise have been devoted to so-called Battle Staff Training the aim of which is to familiarize the personnel with the Command Post structure and procedures for the exercise. At first, starting from 15 September, the participants took part in a series of briefings and got acquainted with work within functional areas. The main focus was to achieve a general overview and build up a comprehensive picture of the exercise as well as to learn about real life issues. Battle Staff Training will be complemented with two-day Mini Exercise launched on 18 September 2012.

During Anakonda 12, Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast staff are supported by personnel of so-called crisis establishment, i.e. reserve and active personnel assigned by the Corps' Framework Nations – Denmark, Germany and Poland. Also soldiers of Command Support Brigade and ISTAR (Intelligence, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance) element of Polish 9th Reconnaissance Regiment are serving shoulder to shoulder with the MNC NE

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personnel. Selected HQ personnel are performing their duties as liaison officers and operators of the Polish Command and Control Information System Szafran at the Polish Operational Command in Warsaw.

Anakonda 12 is the biggest exercise of the Polish Armed Forces organised by the Polish Operational Command with the participation of almost 11,500 soldiers as well as F-16 and MiG-29 aircraft, Leopard tanks, Rosomak transporters, navy battleships and many other items of equipment. The soldiers are operating in the area covering as many as five voivodeships: West Pomeranian, Pomeranian, Lubusz, Greater Poland and Kuyavian-Pomeranian. The terrain is diverse and difficult and includes forests, lakes and the sea.

The exercise scenario reflects an escalation of a military conflict. Polish training units will cooperate with Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) in the course of the operation. The role of CJTF will assume Multinational Corps Northeast staff who will also train their own procedures and capabilities to command subordinated formations in High Intensity Warfare under the legal umbrella of Article 5, i.e. collective defence of NATO territory.

It is the first time in history for a NATO Force Structure unit at the corps level to participate in Anaconda series of exercises.

Photo by: SGT Maksymilian Halec, POL A