

## CIMIC staff getting ready for Crystal Eagle 13

Written by AG

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**For the second time, Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) and 2nd Mechanized Corps (MC, Poland) conducted a seminar about Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) in Kraków, this time from 22 - 25 October 2012.**

Again, both project officers, Lieutenant Colonel Uwe Bartnik (HQ MNC NE) and Lieutenant Colonel Wieslaw Rusin (2nd MC), succeeded in providing a package comprising lectures about Afghanistan and case studies which attracted 31 participants coming from 13 civil and military organizations. Among those were lecturers and participants from Centre for Peace Operations (ZIF), Berlin, University of Kraków, German Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Belgrade, Multinational CIMIC Group in Italy and CIMIC Centre of Excellence in The Netherlands. Furthermore, the Institute for National Security of the University of Szczecin assisted in conducting a case study for the first time; its topic as well as the related lecture were focused on disaster relief. Both, HQ MNC NE and University of Szczecin intend to use this event as a starting point to enhance their future cooperation on these topics also during future courses and exercises in the region.

The main objective of the CIMIC seminar was to educate newcomers in CIMIC and to prepare them as well as the staff for the exercise Crystal Eagle in May 2013. This exercise is supposed to prepare predominantly German and Polish units for their deployment to Afghanistan in early 2014. Therefore, the participants were confronted with presentations of Afghanistan / Pakistan

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experienced civil lecturers challenging their (self-) perceptions. Aside of that, the case studies encouraged them to discuss various approaches to problem-solving and to exchange ideas. Furthermore, the Public Affairs team of HQ MNC NE role-playing media ensured the participants had to think beyond their usual staff work; they were confronted with questions from journalists in order to explain what they were doing to the public. This was done for the first time and was very much appreciated by all interview partners.

HQ MNC NE and 2nd MC have already agreed with University of Szczecin to continue their cooperation. The next seminar is planned in March 2013.

*Text by LTC Uwe Bartnik, DEU A*

*Photo by Marian Cihon, SVK CIV*