

Our thoughts are already in Afghanistan: Deployment part I.

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38 soldiers from the Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast set off for Afghanistan to take part in the ISAF X mission.

Already on Friday a line-up for the soldiers and the HQ personnel took place. The soldiers were addressed by the Corps' Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Josef Heinrichs, who wished them peaceful duty in Afghanistan and a safe trip back home after about six months, as this is an expected time span for this mission. Afterwards the families and colleagues from the Headquarters said goodbye to them and only then the officers left the Baltic Barracks and approached the airport in Rammstein, Germany.

For some of these soldiers it is the first mission that will definitely bring new experiences, for others it will be an opportunity to compare it with some previous missions. The officers will fill the posts in a composite headquarters in ISAF X. ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) was established in order to assist the Government of Afghanistan in maintaining security so that this government and the International Community and the United Nations can operate in a secure environment enabling reconstruction efforts. Currently more than 32 000 troops make up ISAF with contributions from 37 nations, including representatives from our Headquarters.