

The new Polish Minister of Defence in Afghanistan

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The new Polish Minister of Defence, Aleksander Szczygło, visited Polish soldiers in Afghanistan from February 26th to February 28th. The trip took the Minister to the Afghani capital of Kabul first, where the Senior Polish Officer, Colonel Jerzy Fela, welcomed him. Colonel Fela is one of 152 soldiers of Szczecin-based Multinational Corps Northeast serving at present for six months in the headquarters of the international stabilization force ISAF.

In addition to political talks and meetings with ISAF-officials, Minister Szczygło set the priorities of his stay to visits to deployment areas of the Polish soldiers. Together with his delegation, which, among others, included the Commander of the Polish Joint Operational Command, Lieutenant General Henryk Tacik, he gained an insight this way into both the respective work and living conditions of his soldiers and into what they do for the good of the Afghani population. In Bagram, Minister Szczygto awarded the NATO-service medal to deserving soldiers of the Polish contingent.

All in all, more than two hundred Polish soldiers are being deployed at present in Afghanistan. In summer this year, Poland will deploy another one thousand one hundred soldiers to Afghanistan.