Commander MNC NE
Lieutenant General
Rainer Korff
German Army

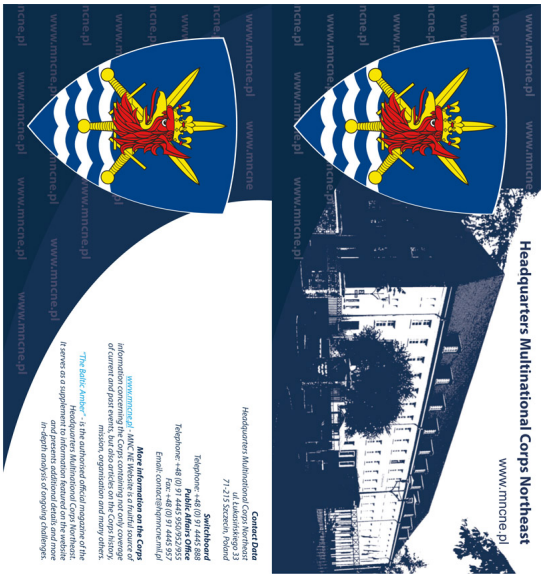
The Corps Commander's primary mission is to prepare the Corps to carry out the full range of military operations throughout the area of responsibility and beyond.

Deputy Commander MNC NE
Major General
Ryszard Sorokosz
Polish Army

The Deputy Commander acts on the Commander's behalf when required and performs other duties as directed by the Commander. Furthermore, the Deputy Commander advises the Commander in all fields of concern related to the Corps.

Chief of Staff MNC NE
Brigadier General
Josef Heinrichs
German Army

The Chief of Staff directs, coordinates and supervises staff activities on behalf of the Commander. He also transmits policies, plans and decisions of the Commander and his Deputy to the staff.



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More information on the Corps
www.mncne.pl – the website includes a wealth of information concerning the Corps containing not only coverage of current and past events, but also articles on the Corps history, mission, organisation and many others.

"The Baltic Amber" – is the authorised official magazine of the Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast. It serves as a supplement to information flowing on the website and presents additional details and more in-depth analysis of ongoing challenges.

Mission

Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) with its Headquarters located in the Baltic Barracks in Szczecin is a part of the NATO Force Structure. As a Headquarters for Forces of Lower Readiness (Land), its staff is supposed to prepare for a mission within 91 to 180 days. These might be, for example, operations within NATO Collective Defence, Crisis and Peace Support Operations, or Catastrophe and Disaster Relief Operations.

Corps Committee

The supervisory and advisory body for the MNC NE is the Corps Committee, composed of representatives of Denmark, Germany and Poland acting on behalf of their Army Chiefs of Staff (or equivalent).

Structure

Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) is organised according to the NATO standards and divided into the Command Group and seven Staff Divisions. The posts in the Command Group rotate between the three Framework Nations – Denmark, Germany and Poland. However, Denmark does not participate in the Commander's rotation procedure and only mans the two remaining positions. The "G" Divisions (G1 to G6 and G8) are headed by "Assistant Chiefs of Staff" (ACOS) with the rank of Colonel or equivalent, and divided into a number of branches. The posts of ACOSes and Branch Chiefs are fixed to the nations.

To be able to conduct Joint Air/Land Battle, Air Operations Co-ordination Centre (AOCC) is collocated with the HQ MNC NE. For the time of exercises, operations and missions Command Support Brigade (CSB) supports MNC NE by, among other things, setting up and sustaining command posts and communications systems as well as providing logistic support and force protection.

To support the Headquarters' peacetime activities, Danish, German and Polish National Support Elements take care of purely national matters, such as housing, discipline, payment, in- and out-processing etc. Danish National Support Element and German Office of Defence Administration take care of all remaining nations' business.

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Crest

The blue background in the MNC NE Crest indicates its fundamental bonds with NATO. The three waves stand for the Baltic Sea and its Approaches that connect the three nations originally contributing to the Corps. The Armed Forces of the three Framework Nations – Denmark, Germany and Poland – are symbolized by the three swords, which at the same time represent the close cooperation between these nations and their responsibility for common defence of their territories. The Gryphon, which originates from Szczecin's coat of arms, indicates the MNC NE's affiliation with the region and the city of Szczecin, where the Headquarters is based.

History

When the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland were invited to join NATO in July 1997, Ministers of Defence of Denmark, Germany and Poland decided to establish a new Danish-German-Polish Corps. This Corps would be named MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST (MNC NE) with its Headquarters located in Szczecin, Poland. The Headquarters Allied Land Forces Schleswig-Holstein and Jutland (LANDJUT) from Rendsburg in Germany was to form the nucleus of this new command. Ministers of Defence of Denmark, Germany and Poland signed the Corps Convention forming a common corps already in 1998 when Poland was not a member of NATO yet, but the date of the country's accession (12th March 1999) had already been set. As early as on 18th September 1999, the three founding nations could hoist their flags in Szczecin, and the Corps Headquarters moved into the renovated buildings of the Baltic Barracks.

The Corps has developed decisively over the past years. In 2005, the Headquarters passed the Full Operational Capability test and as soon as 2007 its personnel were sent into the mission area in Afghanistan. The Corps' multinational character has been enlarged as well. Since April 2004, the flags of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been fluttering at the Headquarters. In January 2005 Slovakia joined Multinational Corps Northeast. Its neighbour, the Czech Republic, sent its officers just a few months later, in October 2005. The US flag was hoisted in November 2006 indicating American membership in the Corps. In July 2008, Romania sent its officers to serve at the HQ. Finally, Slovenia entered the Corps' family in August 2009 and officially became the eleventh nation of the Corps.

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Missions in Afghanistan

The MNC NE staff was assigned to the ISAF X/1 mission and officially took over their duties on 4th February 2007. Under the lead of US ISAF Commander General Dan McNeill, about 160 officers and non-commissioned officers spent 6 months in Afghanistan. The majority of the MNC NE staff filled the posts in Kabul in a new composite Headquarters ISAF consisting of personnel from NATO Standing Headquarters and individuals provided by NATO nations and other nations contributing to the mission. In fact, they were spread among almost all branches within Headquarters ISAF where they proved their excellent level of preparedness and dedication to work.

From February to August 2010, majority of approximately 130 MNC NE personnel deployed to Afghanistan on ISAF 10/1 mission are seeing duty at the new ISAF Joint Command, an operational level headquarters. Similarly to the last deployment, their positions are spread over different branches, which provides an opportunity for the Szczecin-based Corps to gain much of varied mission experiences. Brigadier General Josef Heinrichs, MNC NE Chief of Staff, has been appointed to the highest position held by any MNC NE personnel, namely Chief CJ4 Division, responsible for logistics.

Facts & Figures

Name: Multinational Corps Northeast
Inauguration: 18 September 1999
Location of the Headquarters: Baltic Barracks, Szczecin, Poland
Status: Headquarters of Forces of Lower Readiness (Land)
Full Operational Capability Evaluation: 31 October – 10 November 2005; approved by North Atlantic Council on 6th February 2006
Command & Control Arrangements : Operational Command to Supreme Allied Commander Europe after activation
Supervising authority: Corps Committee
Framework Nations: Denmark, Germany and Poland
Participating States: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United States
Number of personnel at the Headquarters (peacetime): 223
Missions: ISAF X/1 in Afghanistan from February to August 2007
ISAF 10/1 in Afghanistan from February to August 2010

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