Written by AG
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**Commander of Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) Lieutenant General Zdzisław Goral participated in the Graduated Readiness Forces (GRF) Commanders' Conference, which took place on 3 and 4 February 2009 at the Headquarters Joint Forces Command Brunssum.**

The GRF Commanders' Conference was hosted by the Commander of the Joint Forces Command (JFC) Brunssum General Egon Ramms. Among the participants there were representatives of different NATO commands, corps and other agencies from both NATO Command and Force Structure.

The aim of the conference was to exchange information at the highest level and discuss the most current trends within NATO. The participants could, for instance, learn about planned changes in the organisational structure of JFC Brunssum and Headquarters ISAF in Afghanistan. Since JFC Brunssum is in charge of the ISAF operation, the current progress of the campaign was also presented to the participants of the conference.

Among other topics discussed, one can mention the concept of the Effects Based Approach to Operations, Joint Deployable Staff Elements as well as strategic communication. There were also some other interesting ideas raised, which have not been much touched upon in such conferences so far, for example an issue of piracy on the sea, which is considered to be a very important and difficult problem to be solved. The conference participants also focused on security within the so-called "high north" – the area of the Arctic Zone. Since NATO and Arctic countries have enduring interests in the region, several issues need to be clarified to avoid future tensions.

Apart from purely informative role of the conference, it was an excellent opportunity for all participants to strengthen mutual relations.