

## No other option but to talk

Written by AG

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**The greatest success organisers of conferences may experience is when attendees get fully involved in vivid discussions. CIMIC Seminar, which took place from 2 to 5 March 2009 in Baltic Barracks, turned out to be such a success indeed.□**

CIMIC Branch of Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) usually conducts CIMIC Seminars twice a year. Main topics chosen for each conference vary depending on needs but they are always chosen with the idea to make all CIMIC activities in NATO coherent.

### **Three-day conference with three purposes □**

Aims of this year's CIMIC Seminar were rather compound. "The main aim was to start the preparation process for CIMIC personnel for the next ISAF deployment. The second one was to meet representatives from other institutions, not only from other corps, but also operational commands from Denmark, Germany and Poland and other CIMIC units to exchange our experiences, knowledge and to talk over some issues related to ISAF. The third aim referred to establishing and maintaining working relations with CIMIC personnel and simply expanding a circle of acquaintances", explained Lieutenant Colonel Waldemar Torbicki, Chief of CIMIC Branch of HQ MNC NE.

As a matter of fact, during this three-day conference personnel CIMIC Branch of HQ MNC NE, participants from the outside and guest speakers from the HQ and civilian organisations discussed topics within three areas of interest – first of all, CIMIC activities in ISAF including current tasks and challenges, procedures as well as changes in the structure of the ISAF Headquarters. Secondly, CIMIC-military relations were thoroughly talked over, and finally, some current issues were elaborated on, such as the update of the CIMIC doctrine. As a previous member of CIMIC Branch of HQ MNC NE and currently Chief CIMIC at the Joint Support Command in Cologne, Colonel Dieter Bohnert said "I have got very positive impressions about this conference because it touches on key issues".

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