



**Commander of the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) Lieutenant General Zdzisław Goral and Chief of Staff of MNC NE Brigadier General Josef Heinrichs were among the invited guests for the change of command at the German Army Forces Command (GARFCOM), which took place on 16 March 2009 in Koblenz.**

After 4 years, Lieutenant General Wolfgang Otto handed the command over to his successor Major General Carl-Hubertus von Butler. Among others, representatives of all German Divisions and multinational headquarters Germany is contributing to, gathered in Koblenz for the change of command. Since the German Army Forces Command is a superior institution for all German soldiers serving at the Multinational Corps Northeast, also the MNC NE Commander and Chief of Staff took part in the ceremony.

The speeches were delivered by Lieutenant General Hans-Otto Budde, Chief of the German Army and Lieutenant General Wolfgang Otto, the outgoing Commander of GARFCOM. After the official military ceremony, a reception hosted by Federal Minister of Defence Dr Franz Josef Jung took place.

In the evening, a special ceremony called Great Tattoo (Großer Zapfenstreich in German) was prepared for General Otto, who finished his 42-year military service. It is the most important

## **GARFCOM greets the new Commander**

Written by AG

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ceremonial act in the German Armed Forces performed only on special occasions. The most memorable moment is the honourable formation of torch carriers.

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