

MNC NE actively supports other commands

Written by AG

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The idea of Mutual Training Support is one of priorities Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) follows. Following that concept, the HQ supports other commands and headquarters during their training and exercises and invites others for the Corps' undertakings. As a matter of fact, it is the best way to share valuable experiences and learn from each other. Involvement of several HQ personnel in exercises European Endeavour in Germany and Citadel Guibert in France was an example of putting this theory into practice.

Citadel Guibert

One of the exercises supported by the Headquarters personnel was Citadel Guibert, organised under the auspices of the Rapid Reaction Corps – France. It took place at the military training areas of Suippes and Mourmelon, France, from 4 to 15 May 2009.

It was an exercise of more national character conducted at a divisional level. The main training

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audiences were Headquarters of Force 2 (l'État-major de Force 2) located in Nantes and logistic units of the French Land Forces, which mostly exercised national procedures. However, the Rapid Reaction Corps – France also took advantages of the opportunities given and trained NATO procedures. In fact, among 1,600 exercise participants from 19 countries there were representatives of several multinational commands and headquarters, including 3 members of HQ MNC NE. One of them, Lieutenant Colonel Grzegorz Iwanowski, worked in the Joint Effects Centre being responsible for Fire Support Element and Close Air Support. Major Grzegorz Brysz served at the Combined Joint Tasks Force level within the Higher Control, whereas the third officer, Major Arturas Radvilas, had a post in the Lower Control.

The scenario for Citadel Guibert was based on Crisis Response Operations. It was inspired by real events and incidents, and included unexpected or unconventional situations, such as attacks of militia, explosions of Improvised Explosive Devices or managing political destabilization, which French forces and their allies may encounter during joint operations.

Even though a lot of French procedures and instructions were used, the participation in the exercise was a new experience providing an opportunity to compare different ways of acting, admitted Lieutenant Colonel Grzegorz Iwanowski, one of the exercise participants. "It is always beneficial get to know new people, their mentality and culture", added Major Grzegorz Brysz. "Using their Command, Control and Information System called SICF, which is even more complex than our Szafran, was an additional advantage for me", he emphasized.

European Endeavour



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European Endeavour took place at the Training Area in Wildflecken, Germany. From 4 to 15 May, about 4,000 soldiers from more than 20 nations, including 16 representatives of HQ MNC NE, took part in the exercise conducted by the Response Force Operation Command of Ulm under the patronage of the German Chief of Defence General Wolfgang Schneiderhan.

The aim of the exercise was to train planning and conducting a Crisis Management Operation, led by the European Union. Some elements of High Intensity Warfare were included, too. It assumed a form of a Command Post Exercise with the main focus put on working out procedures and decision-making processes. It is important to add that the exercise was truly combined because apart from Land Forces also Air and Marine Components as well as Psychological and Special Operations were involved.

HQ MNC NE members and assigned reserve personnel actively supported the exercise serving in different functional areas, for example Evaluation Centre, Exercise Control and Situation Centre. As one of the participants Major Krzysztof Kociuba said, the participation in the exercise was about exchanging experiences and strengthening relations. "It gave us another look at how other commands plan and conduct such operations" – he explained. He also added that for him personally it was a very interesting experience, as he had a chance to work in the White Cell portraying civilian actors in the conflict.