



They usually spend around 12 hours at work. They have important jobs to do out there. They miss simple things they would do at home. The servicemen of the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) have already spent more than one month in Afghanistan.

New jobs and new challenges

The mission preparation process is one thing, adapting to the mission environment and the battle rhythm is another one. Master Sergeant Ivo Kask, Estonian Army, has been assigned to a different post than planned, but as he admitted, his new occupation has much in common with his previous assignment. Working in the cross-functional team focusing on reintegration, Master Sergeant Kask is responsible for searching the database and collecting the necessary information. As he said, it is hard, time consuming and much reading-related but very important to do. It is about helping those who would like to choose a new way, support the Afghan Government and start a normal life.

Another serviceman from the Baltic Barracks, who is doing a lot for the Afghans, is Colonel Tomasz Nojmiler, Polish Air Force. He is coordinating the development and growth of airfields in Afghanistan. *"There are a lot of players involved in the process: civilian, governmental, non-governmental organisations, airline companies. The airport infrastructure encompasses different aspects like the development of passengers' terminals, providing personnel and radio*

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navigation equipment. ISAF supports all these undertakings and I am 'the ISAF hand' in that respect,"

explained Colonel Nojmiler, who is a



member of the Air Plans & Projects Branch within the ISAF Joint Command (IJC). *"This is something I have never done before, so it is helping the Afghans and developing at the same time."*

Since the aviation sector is the second main source of income for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, it is of vital importance to assess and coordinate any aviation development projects.

"The greatest challenge is to de-conflict all the projects so that the efforts are not duplicated and resources wasted,"

he explained.

Major Marcel Janiga, Slovak Army, is working at the Joint Theatre Movement Staff. Among other things, he is in charge of planning the staff movement or convoys. *"Originally I am a Logistics Officer so it is a little bit different; I had to learn the cycle*

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which is being run within the Movers Branch and how to operate the systems but I got used to this work and I am more than satisfied." But life in theatre is not that perfect: "I miss my daughter most and, of course, my whole family,"

Major Janiga said.

"And I am not going to drive my car for the next five months. That is another thing I really miss here.

"

Routines

One month is long enough to find one's way in the camp. The majority of the MNC NE personnel working at the IJC have already moved from tents into new buildings. Major Janiga stressed that living in a tent was not uncomfortable except for the moments when he had to go to the bathroom in the rain or snow. Lieutenant Colonel Peter Christensen, Danish Army, mentioned the laundry service, which makes a soldier's life much easier. *"Laundry delivered before 18:00 can be collected the following day – washed, dried and neatly put together, but not ironed – it is a nice service,"* he explained.

The mission is not an easy time for night owls. Latest at 8:00 a typical working day begins. *"I usually finish work at 21:00; 21:30",* said Master Sergeant Kask. In fact, other servicemen also finish their work so late. As a result, besides breaks for meals or physical training, the officers and non-commissioned officers spend the whole days at work. Usually there is little time left for relax after work. Recently, a tent has been opened offering some entertainment to servicemen.

"It is a big tent where you can play pool or table tennis, you can watch videos, there are a couple of computers with pretty fast Internet connection,"

Major Janiga said.

There are no weekends in the mission battle rhythm. Friday, which is a holiday in Afghanistan, is the only day when some personnel can sleep longer. *"If there is nothing special to do, we can come to work at 12:00,"*

Janiga.

said Major

"The

breakfast ends at 8:00 so there is a choice: having breakfast or sleeping longer,"

Lieutenant Colonel Christensen added.

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LTC Christensen



MAJ Janiga