

## Discussing Baltic Sea Cooperation

Written by AG

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**On 30 September and 1 October 2011, Baltic Barracks hosted reserve officers and non-commissioned officers from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden, participating in an annual seminar of the Baltic Sea Cooperation (BSC).**

The Baltic Sea Cooperation is a forum for raising common issues for members of the Reserve Forces Associations of countries of the Baltic area. Its main aim is to promote mutual understanding among Reserve Forces Associations through sharing knowledge and experiences, and promoting common interests, as Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Nielsen said – the organiser of this year’s session and, at the same time, the point of contact between Danish reservists and Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE). *“I think it is really important to get new friends all over the countries in the Baltic area and Scandinavia to get our views together and to stick together,”* said Senior Lieutenant (res.) Mikko Halkilahti from Finland who admitted this session to be his first one.

*“It is about our vital interests and exchange of experiences at the intersection of the army and reserve forces,”*

Commodore (res.) Marek Krotowicz from Poland summarized the main concept of the Baltic Sea Cooperation. Also Major (res.) Tiit Meren from Estonia stressed the importance of exchange of views among reserve staff underlining the fact that *“the BSC forum is a nice arena to discuss openly within the family.”*

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It was the 12th session of Baltic Sea Cooperation but the first one held in Baltic Barracks in Szczecin. Beyond discussing purely Baltic Sea Cooperation related topics, the seminar participants were presented with a briefing on MNC NE tasks, missions and organisation as well as the MNC NE participation in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan.