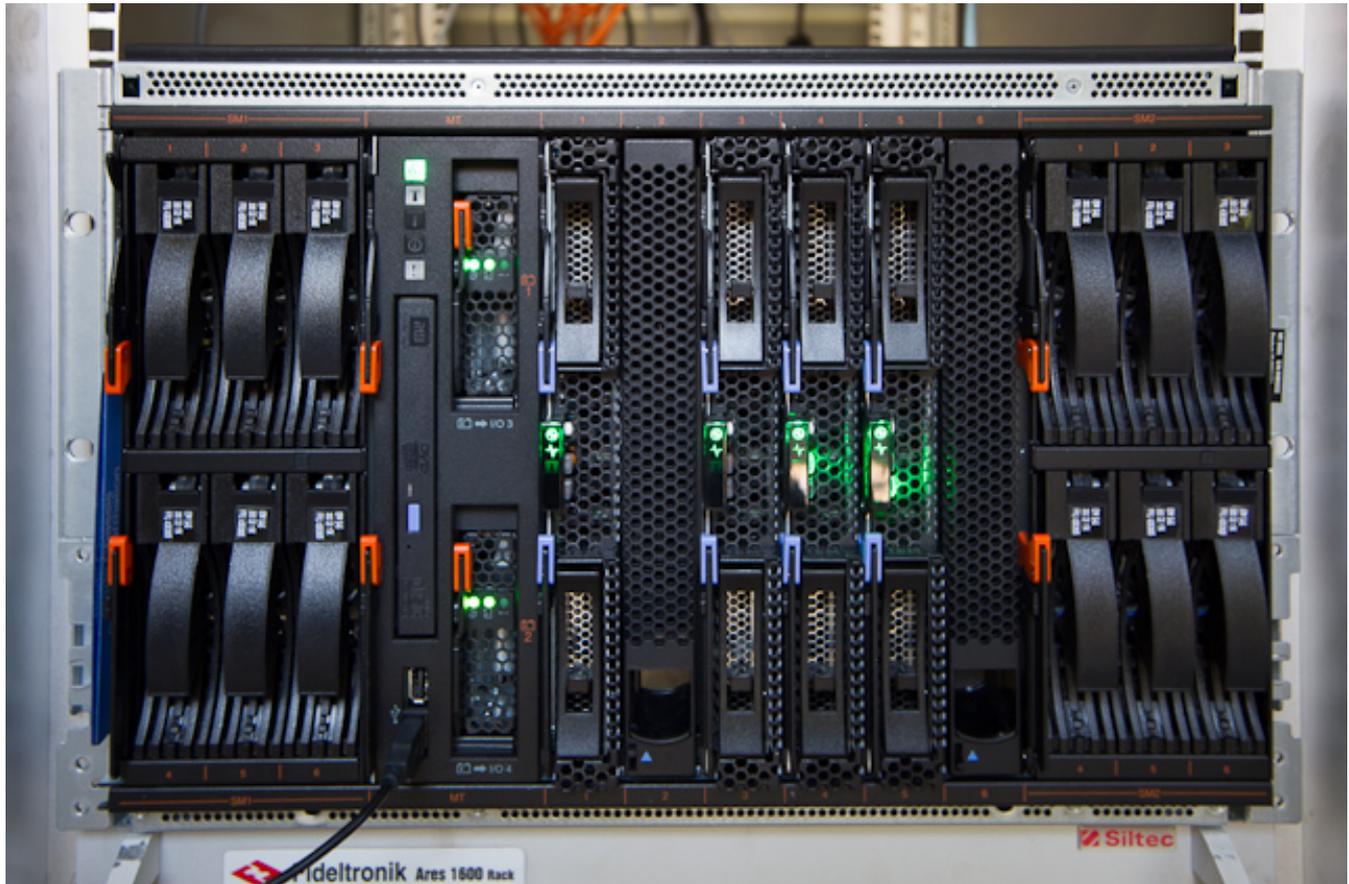


Crystal Eagle: behind the technical scenes

Written by AG

Friday, 02 March 2012 12:15



From 23 to 29 February 2012, the personnel from Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) G6 Division, Headquarters Command Support Brigade, 100th and 610th Signal Battalions – all involved with Communication Information Systems – took part in the Compact Yellow exercise in Wałcz.

The overall aim of the exercise was to prepare Communication Information Systems (CIS) personnel as well as to test the equipment prior the Corps' major exercise this year – Crystal Eagle 2012. Since more than 1300 personnel will participate in the exercise in Denmark and the exercise set-up would require interconnection with the Danish CIS system, the testing opportunity provided during Compact Yellow have turned out to be very useful. In this context, the presence of the 2nd Danish Brigade representatives in the exercise was really appreciated. *"It was worth having them on board,"*

stressed Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Griebhammer, Chief of CIS Operations Branch from G6 Division. Additionally, members of the Telecommunications Research Institute (PIT) supported the exercise in the area of the command and control information system SZAFRAN, especially in terms of the Multilateral Interoperability Programme (MIP) gateway.

Compact Yellow was conducted shortly after the Corps' Little Eagle 2012 exercise held in Wałcz

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from 13 to 17 February 2012. As Lieutenant Colonel Griebhammer explained, some elements of the set-up from Little Eagle were used; other ones were adjusted in the transition phase exercise code-named Concert Grand. *“For example, the server farm remained in the same fashion and location, the network part provided by the DANBW was the same but the location and number of work stations were different,”* said Lieutenant Colonel Griebhammer.

“We have concentrated ourselves on some areas and created a high load on the network to see what happens. We simulated certain circumstances to test how servers react and how network behaves,”

he added. He also underlined the fact that the result of the exercise was an invaluable amount of experience gained by IT specialists.

Crystal Eagle 2012 in Denmark is going to be a challenging exercise. The overall amount of the equipment to be used will be more than double the amount used in regular training events whereas the number of personnel to support the process remains the same. That is why Lieutenant Colonel Griebhammer underlined the importance of adequate preparations. *“Everything has to run in a perfect way because there is not much time to adjust in the preparation phase prior Crystal Eagle,”*

he said. For that reason, even though Compact Yellow was the last major technical test prior Crystal Eagle, there will be several more workshops conducted. All this is being done to ensure Crystal Eagle runs smoothly. And the more CIS experts will stay “behind the scenes”, the more successful Crystal Eagle will be from the technical point of view.

Photo by Marian Cihon, SVK CIV