

Getting ready for Crystal Eagle 12: PA Seminar

Written by AG

Friday, 16 March 2012 10:57



From 13 to 15 March 2012, Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) hosted military personnel and reserve officers who will take part in Crystal Eagle 2012 exercise in Denmark in May as part of Media Information Centre and as Training Audience devoted to Public Affairs issues.

The overall aim of Public Affairs (PA) Seminar was to prepare the personnel delegated from other units to participate in the Crystal Eagle 12 exercise and in this way to shorten their adaptation period in Denmark. Not less important was the opportunity to get to know each other and simply to start building up a team.

The Seminar turned out to be really multinational in character as the hosting PA team and visitors were from Austria, Denmark, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Some guests have already cooperated with MNC NE in the past; others met the MNC NE staff and learnt about the organisation for the first time.

The Seminar participants were warmly welcomed by MNC NE Chief of Staff Brigadier General Morten Danielsson. The introductory briefing to what Multinational Corps Northeast is and what it does was given by Lieutenant Colonel Volker Quante from G5 Staff Division.

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An important part of the Seminar was the presentation of skills of each participant so that the specific roles for them during the exercise could be easily assigned. Obviously, the Seminar included a bunch of briefings and follow-up discussions about Crystal Eagle exercise. Among other things, the Seminar participants got acquainted with basic concepts of Synchronized Communication and Comprehensive Operation Planning Directive (COPD), current NATO Military Public Affairs Policy as well as the structure and tasks of Media Information Centre. After the presented theory, the Seminar participants were divided into groups in which further discussions were continued on e.g. the Crystal Eagle scenario, media operations issues, real life media events during the exercise and concepts and forms of internal communications. The Seminar also included selected aspects of media training.

The Seminar was conducted by MNC NE Public Affairs personnel led by Chief Public Affairs Lieutenant Colonel Wojciech Wiśniewski who expressed his satisfaction with the Seminar results: *“The Seminar was an excellent opportunity to get to know each other and to decide about specific role each member of the team will play during the exercise. We have also discussed all exercise related documents so I am certain that as soon as we arrive in Denmark, we will be able to assume our roles immediately and start to work efficiently,”* he said.

Photo by Marian Cihon, SVK CIV