

## Last preparatory step for Anaconda 12

Written by Frank Reiser

Monday, 10 September 2012 10:00

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**From 3 to 6 September 2012, 19 Polish officers from several military organizations participated in a training and planning workshop organized by the Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE).**

Anaconda 12, the major Polish exercise, will start in less than two weeks. After more than six months of planning for that undertaking, the last preparatory event took place in the Baltic Barracks in the beginning of September 2012.

The officers taking part in the workshop will participate in the exercise Anaconda as the "CJTF LOCON group". LOCON is an acronym standing for "Lower Control" and the task of this group is to portray the subordinate units of the Combined Joint Task Force's (CJTF) headquarters, manned by the soldiers from HQ MNC NE.

During Anaconda, the CJTF will lead several subordinate units. While the Headquarters CJTF will be fully manned, the actions of the subordinate units - three divisions, two brigades, and one regiment - will be "simulated" by the members of the LOCON group. This is an important task, because the group creates feedback to orders given by CJTF, which will influence further planning, future actions, and the overall course of the exercise. It makes the exercise more realistic, although the exercise with fully manned subordinate units would be more realistic for sure; but that would mean that several 10,000 soldiers and thousands of vehicles would be needed.

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The LOCON workshop participants received briefings explaining them the plan of their superior headquarters (CJTF) and introducing all information management procedures, which will be used during Anaconda to depict the communication between the CJTF and its units.

Considering the fact that the LOCON group will be hundreds of kilometers away, information management and the transmission of information will be conducted like in a real mission.

After the conditions were set, the workshop participants started on the second day to develop the operational plans of the units they have to portray during the exercise. In close coordination with the soldiers from the Szczecin Corps they worked for two days and created maneuver plans, logistical concepts, and more documents required for their jobs as LOCON.

The workshop ended with a presentation of the results on Thursday morning to soldiers who would work in the Headquarters CJTF during Anaconda. This was the final check to ensure that the developed concepts and plans are in line with the overall plan of LOCON's higher headquarters - the CJTF.

*Photo by: SGT Maksymilian Halec, POL A*