Written by Steffen Zander
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On 25 October 2012, guests from the German Defence Administration in Rostock and Torgelow visited Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) to familiarize with the tasks of the Office of Defence Administration in Szczecin and the Corps itself.

The main part of the HQ visit for the neighbours from across the Odra River was the briefing presented by Karsten Imhof, the Chief of the German Defence Administration (ODA) in Poland. According to the German Constitution, the Armed Forces consist of the military personnel with their specific mission and the administration that takes care of basic services ranging from financial matters to supply of transportation and management of facilities of the respective units and formations. Basically, the tasks of ODA personnel serving in Germany and in Poland are similar but ODA in Szczecin also provides interpreter's services and assistance related to the soldiers' stay in Poland dealing with e.g. tax issues and schooling system as the soldiers' children attend an international school in Szczecin. Consequently, the variety of tasks for ODA in Szczecin is much broader and the area of responsibility also includes liaison officers at the Polish Defence Academy in Warsaw as well as German personnel of Joint Force Training Centre in Bydgoszcz.

Lieutenant Colonel Carsten Hess from the G4 Staff Division briefed the visitors not only on the Corps' history, tasks and role but also described how the cooperation between the three Framework Nations of the Corps, i.e. Denmark, Germany and Poland, and the other nine Participating States, works at Baltic Barracks.

After visiting HQ MNC NE, the group went for a sightseeing tour during which they saw many interesting historical places in the city of Szczecin. Afterwards, they enjoyed typical Polish cuisine in one of Szczecin's restaurants.

Photo by: SGT Maksymilian Halec, POL A