

Future soldiers visiting MNC NE

Written by AG

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On 15 November 2012, students of the Oskar Lange High School Complex in Biały Bór paid a visit to Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) – all wearing uniforms and many dreaming of a military career.

The students visiting HQ study at a military-oriented class and, therefore, they all wear uniforms – without ranks – and their educational programme includes elements of the military training conducted by soldiers in active duty from partnering units.

“We try to organise visits to various military units once in two months,” said Mrs Joanna Racisz-Czapla, responsible for the coordination of military training and police training. In fact, it was the second time when students from Biały Bór visited HQ MNC NE. But those who had a chance to learn more about MNC NE are already graduates.

The visitors were warmly welcomed by Major Marcin Czekalski from the Visitors and Observers Bureau who also delivered a presentation on Multinational Corps Northeast. Among other things, he was talking about the Corps’ history, tasks and missions, including the two missions in Afghanistan. *“We listened to a very interesting briefing,”* said Mss Ewelina Perlik, one of the students.

“We were told what the service in the army looks like and that we should not give up,” she also added and admitted to have thought about taking up a military career.

“But I would like to associate my future with the navy,” she reassured. Also another student, Mr Bartosz Jońca, considers becoming a professional

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soldier. He was very fond of a kind reception at Baltic Barracks, enjoying a multinational character of the Corps:

"I like the fact that soldiers from so many nations work together."

Indeed, as stated by Mrs Racisz-Czapla, a great number of the school's graduates associate their future with the uniformed services. Beyond elements of military training and drills, the students take an active part in various ceremonies and events. For instance, during the celebration of Polish Independence Day, the students marched through the town under the command of one of them. There is also a traditional military training camp: *"At the end of the first and second year, the students take part in a military training camp which is organized in support of a friendly military unit. Military units provide us a lot of support enabling the military-oriented classes to function and the teenagers to develop their interests,"* explained Mrs Racisz-Czapla.

Photo by: SGT Maksymilian Halec, POL A