

The Corps initiates new cooperation spheres

Written by AG

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On 5-7 December 2012 Major Norbert Hrib representing Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) took part in the Initial Planning Conference for the exercise Viking 14, conducted in Runö conference centre in Åkersberga in the vicinity of Stockholm, Sweden.

Following the decisions of the Corps Committee and the visit of the Swedish delegation to the HQ MNC NE in June 2012, the Szczecin Corps has initiated the cooperation with the Swedish Armed Forces. One of the very first occasions to begin mutual relationships was the Initial Planning Conference for the Swedish exercise codenamed "Viking 14". More than 30 nations and 10 international organizations were represented in that event. The role of the Corps' representative was to coordinate possible future involvement of the Headquarters in that exercise.

The Viking 14 Exercise is the seventh in the series. The first one was conducted in April 1999 and demonstrated at the 50th anniversary of NATO in Washington DC. It is a Command Post and Computer Assisted Exercise held in the "Spirit of Partnership for Peace". Previous Viking exercises were stated as the major "Multinational and Comprehensive Approach" exercise in the world.

The exercise will be conducted between 31 March and 11 April and will be co-chaired by the Swedish Armed Forces and the Folke Bernadotte Academy. A strategic partner for the exercise will be the United States.

The aim of Viking 14 is to train and educate civilian, military participants and the police to meet the challenges of tomorrow's crisis response and peace operations. This includes planning and conducting a UN-mandated Chapter 7 integrated peace operation in an unstable environment, based on the Comprehensive Approach and focusing on cooperation and co-ordination with all

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relevant actors. The exercise is built on a fictitious Bogaland scenario, involving several countries in a deep crisis in the need of a joint combined civilian and military peace support operation.

The Viking exercises provide a unique learning environment where participants develop skills and acquire new knowledge while interacting with each other. They are expected to accomplish the exercise with better knowledge and understanding of the roles the many contributors have in peace operations.

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