



After a three-year tenure, Lieutenant General Rainer Korff, handed over the command of Multinational Corps Northeast to Major General Bogusław Samol. The change of command ceremony was held on 19 December 2012 at Baltic Barracks in Szczecin, home of the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE).

Ceremony

Symbolically, Danish Chief of Defence General Peter Bartram took the MNC NE Flag from General Korff's hands and handed it over to General Samol. For the next three years, it will be the Polish General who will be the first officer of the Multinational Corps Northeast.

The change of command attracted a great interest of highest representatives of the Corps' Framework Nations and Participating States, to include Danish Chief of Defence General Peter Bartram, Chief of the German Army Lieutenant General Bruno Kasdorf, Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces General Mieczysław Cieniuch, Commander of the Polish Land Forces Lieutenant General Zbigniew Głowienka and others as well as. Also the Corps Committee members, representatives of the local and regional authorities, uniformed services, clergy and partnering organizations as well as the whole MNC NE staff were present at the change of command ceremony at Baltic Barracks. An exceptional atmosphere of the ceremony was created by three military bands from Denmark, Germany and Poland.

New Commander of MNC NE

Written by AG

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The fact that Lieutenant General Rainer Korff handed over the command of MNC NE to his Deputy, Major General Boguslaw Samol, depicts the idea of continuity, so much underlined by both Generals. This continuity and maintaining the Corps' personnel in high readiness will let the new Commander face the upcoming challenges, such as the huge Crystal Eagle 13 exercise and the third mission in Afghanistan in 2014.

Farewell to the outgoing Commander

"Thank you for all the achievements and successes. I am proud of you – the members of MNC NE. We were a team, by the way...an excellent team. I will never forget the time with you," said General Korff. Afterwards, the highest representatives of the Corps' three Framework Nations took the floor and expressed their appreciation for General Korff's service at MNC NE.

"During the last three years you have made a significant and an admirable effort. Thanks to your leadership, the Corps has reached a remarkably high level of competence," said the Danish Chief of Defence General Peter Bartram and awarded General Korff with the Danish Defence Medal for Meritorious Service.

"We are very content with General Korff's performance,"

admitted the Chief of the German Army Lieutenant General Bruno Kasdorf. Also the Chief of the General Staff General Mieczysław Cieniuch addressed General Korff with a few words:

"Please accept my words of high respect and appreciation for you accomplishments. Your splendid service has greatly contributed to the strengthening of the security of the Alliance and regional military cooperation."

In recognition of the General Korff's contribution to the international cooperation, he was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit for the Republic of Poland by the President of Poland, handed over by General Cieniuch, whereas Lieutenant General Zbigniew Głowienka presented the outgoing Corps' Commander with the commemorative saber.

Welcoming the new Commander

Representatives of the Corps' Framework Nations also very warmly welcomed the new MNC NE Commander. *"You have served as the MNC NE Deputy Commander, hence you are very well prepared to take over command today. A very warm welcome to you and congratulations on your new command,"* said General Bartram. *"I wish you every success and the best of luck,"* said General

Kasdorf and added:

"I am sure that MNC NE will accomplish its third mission in Afghanistan in 2014 in the same spirit of excellence and professionalism."

"I am convinced that your high qualifications and experience will contribute to the successful service as the MNC NE Commander,"

said General Cieniuch.

After the official military ceremony, a reception took place during which General Samol, in his new function as the Commander of the Multinational Corps Northeast, addressed the guests and MNC NE staff. *"We are ready for the mission. We are ready to execute our role in the chain of command in NATO,"* underlined General Samol. *"We will prepare for our exercises and training events. And we will stay together – strong and unique – for the main*

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event in the upcoming three years: ISAF 2014,”

he reassured and indicated the two keywords for his tour of duty: continuity and professionalism.

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Video by: SGT Maksymilian Halec, POL A

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Btn-t7Znyg>