

## PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

WARSAW, 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

Lieutenant General Sławomir Wojciechowski  
Commander  
Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin

*Sir,*

I would like to express my sincere congratulations and appreciation on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 1999, the representatives of Denmark, Germany and Poland hoisted their flags in the Baltic Barracks in Szczecin. The Szczecin Corps was the first NATO headquarters on the Polish soil and it is within the Baltic Barracks where you can most clearly see the 20 years of Poland's membership in NATO.

We are proud to see how successfully the Corps has developed since then to become the highest Land Component Headquarters on the eastern flank of NATO. The soldiers serving in the Corps come not only from Poland, Denmark and Germany, but also from Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy and – from non-NATO states – Finland and Sweden.

In the course of 20 years the Corps has become an essential element of NATO Forces. The Corps has received a wider scope of tasks as well as responsibilities and it has gained significance. The soldiers of the Corps acquired valuable combat experience during their three deployments to Afghanistan. We are extremely glad that the Corps based in Szczecin has been constantly developing and is currently ready to assume responsibility for all NATO land operations in our region.

The experience gained by the hundreds of Allied soldiers who have served arm in arm in the Corps over the 20 years is priceless. Thus, for them, their families and for the citizens of Szczecin, "solidarity" is not an empty word. The Corps has become a part of the city and its community. It

builds the sense of belonging to NATO family, strengthens the sense of security and the awareness that we can achieve much more when we work together with our Allies. It boosts economic growth in the region.

On this special occasion – on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland and the citizens of our country – I would like to thank the soldiers of the Corps for their meritorious service, dedication and the example they set for us to follow.

Respectfully,  
*Mateusz Morawiecki*