

Speech by Rear Admiral Frank Trojahn, acting Vice Chief of Defense of Denmark at the official ceremony on the occasion of the Corps' 20th anniversary

*Your Excellencies, Generals, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Members of Multinational Corps North East,*

It is a great honour for me to represent Denmark on a day like this and see the outcome of what three nations started more than 20 years ago.

Already in 1994 the foundation of the Headquarter was laid, with the desire to integrate Poland in the existing Danish-German cooperation. At this time we tried to shape a new Europe after the Cold War ended some years earlier. The NATO-Russia Founding Act was signed in 1997, opening the possibility to include Russia in our defence cooperation. In this context the framework of Multinational Corps North East was build and the Corps finally saw the first light in 1999.

The security environment today is in many ways different than it was 20 years ago. Russia did not become engaged in our cooperation despite persisting efforts on our side. However, today 25 nations are represented at Multinational Corps North East and the Corps is an important element in NATO's defence and reassurance of the North-eastern region of the Alliance.

The future tasks of Multinational Corps North East is today more important than ever and the responsibility NATO has placed on the shoulders of the men and woman of Corps are heavier than before. The two divisions, Multinational Division North and Multinational Division North East will both play a vital role in the region, imbedded in the Corps structure.

Multinational Corps North East is, as a regional headquarters, also ready to include and command other NATO units in both exercises and if needed operations. Already now the cooperation with the units in the Enhanced Forward Presence and the NATO Force Integration Units are developing. Beside this, the Corps always has both mental and physical room for re-enforcement units, if they come to the region.

Denmark highly appreciates our close trilateral cooperation in the framework of the Multinational Corps North East. We are excited to see the many nations that support the Headquarter and we honour the men and woman who serve in the Corps.

Thank you for your service and dedication. Together we are strong.