

**Trilateral Statement on
HQ Multinational Corps Northeast
at
NATO Defence Ministers Meeting 5 February 2015**

At the NATO Summit in September 2014 the Ministers of Defence from Germany, Poland and Denmark informed their colleagues and signed a statement that they had decided to raise the level of readiness of the Headquarters (HQ) Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) from a Forces of Lower Readiness Headquarters to a High Readiness Force Headquarters and to enhance its capability to address future threats and challenges.

We aim to raise the level of readiness and fulfil a joint and regional role within the framework of NATO's Readiness Action Plan, for both Assurance and Adaptation Measures in order to exercise command and control in the full range of Alliance missions in the north-eastern region (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) of the Alliance with the emphasis on Article 5 operations including command and control over the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). Additionally, MNC NE will execute command and control over the NATO Force Integration Units (NFIUs) in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Furthermore, the headquarters will contribute to NATO's Joint and Comprehensive Situational Awareness in all domains as well as coordinate and support the implementation of NATO's Joint Assurance and Adaptation Measures in the north-eastern region of the Alliance and enhance regional cooperation and to increase regional capabilities in the context of the Framework Nations Concept.

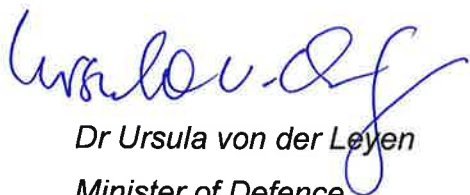
Since the NATO Summit NATO Military Authorities have commenced analysis and provided advice to support the implementation of the Readiness Action Plan. In this light we - in addition to the numerous regional tasks in the context of NATO's Assurance and Adaptation Measures - keep focused on achieving the capability to command and control over the VJTF, NATO Response Force (NRF) and follow-on forces as well as the NFIUs as our first priority.

A manning conference was held in Szczecin on 8-9 December 2014 and successfully integrated five further Alliance members and resulted in a manning of more than 93 % of the Peace Establishment. We warmly welcome these contributions by Allies as they are an important first step on our way to move towards reaching the new operational capabilities. Germany, Poland and Denmark thank all Alliance members and partners that have showed solidarity and interest in contributing to the HQ MNC NE. Further contributions to the Crisis Establishment are very welcome. We will also seek involvement of associated Partner Nations upon invitation and based on NATO procedures.

The first visible measures will be the establishment of a capability to fulfill the requirements related to the Readiness Action Plan implementation in early 2015 along with the up-manning of the corps staff with the aim to reach Initial Operational Capability (IOC) mid 2015. This includes achieving and maintaining Joint and Comprehensive Situational Awareness, coordinating NATO Joint Assurance Measures and command and control over NFIUs in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

HQ MNC NE will be fully capable to provide the requisite high readiness capability executing joint command and control over forces deployed/employed in the north-eastern region of the Alliance (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) with specific emphasis on Article 5 operations no later than the Warsaw Summit. This includes the deployed VJTF, NRF, follow on forces as well as the NFIUs and other formations – and will reach Full Operational Capability in 2016.

Our Chiefs of Defence are tasked to implement our decision and have already initiated the first steps.



Dr Ursula von der Leyen
Minister of Defence
Germany



Mr Tomasz Siemoniak
Minister of National Defence
Poland



Mr Nicolai Wammen
Minister of Defence
Denmark