

Polish Independence Day Celebration at the JFTC - Joint Force Training Centre

Written by Radoslaw Kubiczek
Friday, 09 November 2012 06:28



It was the third time when the Polish community at the JFTC organized the Polish Independence Day Run to commemorate the most important national holiday of the JFTC's Host Nation. There was also an official ceremony attended by local authorities, concert with patriotic music and reception with pea soup and Polish "bigos". Although the Polish Independence Day falls on 11 November, the JFTC celebrated it 5 days earlier – due to the PUMA 12 Exercise held at the Centre between 7 and 16 November.

The day was opened by a 1-kilometer run for women and a 3-kilometer run for men. Approximately 30 participants representing the JFTC, the JFTC Support Unit (JFTC SU) and the NCIA Squadron Bydgoszcz (NCBY) entered the competition. After a very tough rivalry Katarzyna Terebus (JFTC SU) and Major Stéphane Boucharin (NCBY) received congratulations for the best performance. Together with second and third place winners from both competitions they were awarded during the official ceremony which took place in the second part of the day.

In the presence of Mr. Zbigniew Ostrowski, the Deputy Voivode of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province and Mr. Jan Szopiński, the Deputy Mayor of Bydgoszcz, the JFTC family listened to a short occasional lecture given by Brigadier General Grzegorz Buszka, the JFTC Deputy Commander and a very interesting presentation about Polish-Italian relations over the past few centuries, prepared by an Italian JFTC officer, Lieutenant Colonel Attilio Burdi. The ceremony also created a perfect opportunity to decorate Chief Petty Officer Willem de Best, who was awarded the Bronze Medal of the Polish Armed Forces for his contribution to Polish-Dutch military cooperation. The Deputy Voivode decorated CPO de Best on behalf of the Polish

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Minister of Defence.



The celebration ended with the concert played by the Military Orchestra of the Polish Armed Forces Inspectorate, a performance of Ms. Jolanta Wagner, singer of the Opera Nova's Choir and a concert of the Blue Berets group.

Traditionally, a JFTC's delegation also took part in the municipal celebration on the occasion of the Polish Independence Day. On 11 November Major General Pavel Macko, the JFTC Commander, accompanied by his wife and Brigadier General Grzegorz Buszka, the JFTC Deputy Commander laid a wreath next to the Monument of Liberty. Together with local authorities, including the Voivode of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province, Mrs. Ewa Mes, the Deputy Marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province, Mr. Edward Hartwich and the Mayor of Bydgoszcz, Mr. Rafał Bruski, veterans, representatives of military organizations and citizens of Bydgoszcz they commemorated the most important national holiday in Poland.

On 11 November 1918, after a 123-year-partition period, marked with uprisings, battles and wars, Poland regained its independence. Since then, 11 November has been a symbol of Polish sovereignty and one of the most important days for all Polish citizens.

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