



With close to 100 guests, including several members of Polish Parliament, Mrs. Ewa Mes, the Voivode of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province, Mr. Rafał Bruski, the Mayor of Bydgoszcz, numerous representatives of military and civilian organizations, the Joint Force Training Centre inaugurated another busy year.

The New Year's Reception, that took place on 18 January, created a perfect opportunity to summarize the Centre's work in 2012, to give an overview of the JFTC Commander's plan for 2013 and to meet with all authorities and institutions that supported the centre throughout 2012.

*During the last 12 months we have significantly intensified our training efforts and reached the highest ever "training tempo" while maintaining and even improving the quality of the training conducted here at the JFTC – General Pavel Macko highlighted. Today there are dozens of successful Military Advisory Teams recently deployed into ISAF mission which gained their professional level also due to training received in our centre.*

*(...)*

*The training for Regional Command North could serve as a master example for other regional commands.*

*(...)*

*We have successfully continued to exploit concepts of the distributed training during Unified Endeavour series of exercises and gained significant momentum in this area.*

*(...)*

*Once again we hosted a very successful Coalition Warrior Interoperability Exercise during which*

*Bydgoszcz has virtually become the capital of NATO and partners Command and Control Systems and which was our largest event by number of participants and systems*

. – General Macko enumerated.



But he also put emphasis on the new expertise the JFTC gained especially during the second part of the year. The centre executed completely new training events, based on fictitious scenarios, for NATO's and NATO nations' headquarters. *These training events demonstrated our ability to provide also training events other than the ones for ISAF and clearly showed there is a future for the JFTC after the end of ISAF*

– said General Macko. He also ensured that for the JFTC this type of training would remain one of the key areas of focus in 2013. This goes along with the Connected Forces Initiative approved by the heads of states during the last NATO Summit in Chicago, which centered directly on education and training as well as on interconnection of NATO forces.

The annual New Year's Reception is traditionally also a unique opportunity for the JFTC Commander to express his gratitude for all the support the centre receives from national and local authorities as well as from external institutions and companies. Also this year General Macko thanked all the guests for their engagement and friendship. *Your country and your city have become a second home for us, for our staff members. We are proud to be here with you and to be at least for a while your temporary fellow citizens*

– said General Macko.

The ceremony ended with toasts to prosperous cooperation between the centre and its partnering institutions as well as to the NATO-Polish Family and the community of Bydgoszcz and Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region.