



Approximately 1000 military and civilian specialists, almost 150 IT systems, and more than 3200 test interactions – these numbers describe the last exercise held at the Joint Force Training Centre.

It's the second year in a row that the Bydgoszcz NATO Centre was assigned to host the biggest NATO exercise aimed at improving interoperability of NATO and national Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems with particular emphasis on those that in the future will be deployed to the NATO-led operations such as ISAF, Active Endeavor and KFOR or within possible NATO Response Forces operations.

The Coalition Warrior Interoperability eXploration, eXperimentation, eXamination, eXercise took place between 4 and 21 June 2012. Its main organizer was the Allied Command Transformation (ACT).

"Typically, we train here NATO commanders and their staffs or military advisory teams just before they deploy to their operational mission.



The CWIX is different from our regular trainings" – said Major General Pavel Macko, the JFTC Commander. "The CWIX is a significant NATO initiative that will test, assess and explore different command and control systems."

"During this exercise representatives of 21 countries try to find a common platform for the command systems. Representatives of many companies which prepared new technologies are here, we have representatives of nations and different level commands. Results of this exercise will be implemented in the whole Alliance. And all this is supposed to support the interoperability of the NATO command system" – described General Mieczysław Cieniuch, the Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, who was visiting the CWIX 2012 on 14 June.

The CWIX 2012 has been the largest CWIX to date. Comparing it to the last year's event, there was a 30% increase in the number of participants and 40% increase in the number of systems tested. Altogether, 22 nations, including NATO Nations, Partnership for Peace and contact countries, took part in this event actively or as observers. Also, 13 NATO Headquarters and institutions were involved in the exercise.

General Stéphane Abrial, the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, leader of the parent Command of JFTC that directs CWIX, also visited the JFTC during the CWIX 2012 VIP Day. "Bydgoszcz is a really good place to work. Everybody feels comfortable here and the quality of training is very high" – General Abrial stated. He also underlined that drawing the attention of such a significant number of experts and gathering them during the exercise in Bydgoszcz was a great success.

But it was not only IT specialists that were interested in progress of the CWIX.



The Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, the NATO Military Committee and over sixty General officers from the various Participating Nations attended the CWIX VIP Day. Together there were almost one hundred people that participated in the CWIX Visitor's programme. Again, the JFTC faced a great logistic challenge. But, as the ACT staff responsible for the CWIX highlighted, "the coordination between the ACT CWIX Team, the JFTC and the local NCSA team led to a flawless execution".

JFTC did not only host the event. Key personnel assigned to the training centre also participated in some of the experiments during CWIX. In particular, JFTC experimented with cloud computing infrastructure as a service. The use of cloud computing has great potential to reduce logistic problems, because the technology may allow some applications to be run without actually shipping physical computers to Bydgoszcz. JFTC also provided a computer-based scenario for CWIX in order to create an environment as much as possible like a military operation, including enemy systems. This also provided JFTC personnel the opportunity to test interactions of simulation systems with NATO and national functional area systems.

The final report on the results of the CWIX 2012 will be released in September 2012. Also in September the ACT will start preparations for the CWIX 2013 at the Exercise Specification Conference that will occur in Paris, France.