

## JFTC hosts ninth Senior NCO Symposium - ACT

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NATO's Joint Force Training Centre (JFTC) hosted the ninth Senior Non-Commissioned Officers' (NCO) Symposium at the JFTC in Bydgoszcz, Poland May 31-June 2.

Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and Allied Command Operations (ACO) senior NCOs conducted the programme, which brought together 37 senior NCOs from NATO Nations, Partnership for Peace (PfP) countries, and NATO Contact Countries for discussions on topics of mutual interest to include recruitment, Counter-Insurgency (COIN), Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) and pre-deployment trainings for national contingents.

"We gather senior NCOs from NATO, PfP and Contact Countries not only to provide them with an update on NATO's activities, plans, and projects, but more importantly, to discuss actively important current topics, to tighten co-operation between Senior NCOs and, above all, to share the best practices and lessons learned," said Czech Republic Command Sergeant Major Ludek Kolesa, ACT's Senior Enlisted Advisor to Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), French Air Force General Stephane Abrial.

During the symposium, participants met with Danish Army Major General Ib Johannes Bager, JFTC Commander, and took part in video-teleconferences with Abrial and Royal Navy Vice Admiral Robert Cooling, ACT Chief of Staff.

The symposium, which takes place once or twice a year, is part of a NATO development program. The first symposium took place in 2005. Participating commands included Allied Air Component Command Ramstien, Joint Force Command Lisbon, Joint Force Command Naples, the Joint Warfighting Centre and NATO School.

The attendees' stay in Bydgoszcz ended with a meeting with the mayor of the city, Konstanty Dombrowicz.