



Commander, Striking and Support Forces NATO

8 June 2015

Dear Mayor Szczurek and the citizens of Gdynia Poland,

On behalf of the leadership of STRIKING AND SUPPORT FORCES NATO, we wanted to personally thank you for the tremendous hospitality you and the city of Gdynia displayed to our entire BALTOPS force during the pre-sail phase of this important exercise. The "BALTOPS" signs throughout the city and facilitation of open ship tours helped us make this pre-sail phase a community event, not just another military exercise. The coordination and professionalism displayed by the city of Gdynia and the Polish Navy to host 49 ships from across the Alliance and regional partners the world was absolutely phenomenal!

Stopping by your Tourist Information Center, we were delighted to see specially made BALTOPS posters and post cards that included a great collage of photos with our logo. When asked how much for a post card, the attendant responded that they were free of charge and a souvenir of BALTOPS 2015. This postcard hangs in the Commander's stateroom on the BALTOPS Flagship SAN ANTONIO.

Again, Mr. Mayor, we commend you and the Polish Navy for your oversight and leadership in making this pre-sail event so successful. And we want you to assure you that NATO stands with Poland to ensure security and stability of this vital region.

Very respectfully,

JAMES FOGGO
*Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander,
Striking and Support Forces NATO*

TIM LOWE
*Rear Admiral, Royal Navy
Deputy Commander, Striking and Support
Forces NATO*

JUAN GARAT
*Rear Admiral, ESP Navy
Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations*