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Allied Component Command Air Headquarters Ramstein

9 September 2009

NEWS RELEASE BALTIC REGION TRAINING EVENT IV (BRTE IV)

Ramstein, Germany – (reu). Baltic Region Training Event IV (BRTE IV) is scheduled to be flown in two parts during September. On 14 and 15 September the first part will take place in Estonia. It is linked with an Estonian Forward Air Controller (FAC) exercise and involves the landing of NATO F-15E aircraft at Tallinn International Airport. The second part will be conducted on 22 September. During the NATO live-fly exercise BOLD AVENGER (14-25 September) NATO fighter aircraft will fly as part of an exercise force package within Latvian and Lithuanian airspace.

The BRTE IV Alpha on 14 and 15 September will involve USAF F-15E Strike Eagles who will be employed during the event from RAF Lakenheath, GBR to provide Close Air Support (CAS) controlled by the Estonian FACs. The fighters are planned to land at Tallinn International Airport at about noontime on 14 September. The media will have an opportunity to meet with the crews and take pictures and also discuss FAC matters with a NATO Subject Matter Expert from Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein (CC-Air HQ Ramstein).



On 22 September under the BRTE IV B involves NATO fighter aircraft flying a long range tactical force package as part of the exercise BOLD AVENGER 2009. The flight route will lead through Lithuanian and Latvian airspace. The aim is to train the NATO Air Surveillance and Air Policing assets in the area and to familiarize aircrew with the airspace specifics of the Baltic region. On that day the jets will only be flying out of and back into their home bases.

CC-Air HQ Ramstein plans, tasks and executes BRTEs to enhance Air Policing and Air Surveillance training. The programme assists Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and neighbouring NATO countries also in their efforts towards interoperability and integration of air assets in line with existing NATO standards. Originally purely tailored to NATO's Air Policing mission, BRTE meanwhile covers the whole spectrum of Air Power, each event covering a different aspect of air operations.

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BRTE was first conducted in October 2002 – at the time by the name of Baltic Air Sovereignty Training Event or BAST-E - and have since become a firm part of the training calendar for CC-Air HQ Ramstein. BRTEs always include NATO's Baltic Air Policing assets flying out of Šiauliai Air Base, Lithuania.

Since 2004 NATO has been providing Air Policing assets for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Preserving the integrity of NATO airspace is a collective task. For member nations not having the full range of Air Defence assets in their own militaries, agreements exist to ensure a single standard of security within NATO's Area of Responsibility.

Pictures show a USAFE F-15E twoship (courtesy United States Air Force) and a Polish F-16 (courtesy Polish Air Force) taxiing

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NOTES FOR THE MEDIA:

Media representatives who would like to report about BRTE IV or participate in the photo opportunity on 15 September should send their queries to:

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