



# Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
Ramstein Air Base, Germany

**NEWS RELEASE**  
# 2010\_014E



## **NATO accomplishes BRTE VII with AWACS and COMLOSS scenario at Šiauliai**

Ramstein, 5 November. The seventh Baltic Region Training Event (BRTE) brought a NATO Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) Boeing 707 to the base at Šiauliai.

The training event originally foreseen had to be delayed by one day due to peacetime flight safety limitation based on inclement weather.

On 3 November, about 25 representatives of regional media outlets took the opportunity to learn more about NATO's commitment in the Baltic.

The event started with an introduction briefing for the media. The Chief of the Lithuanian Air Force, Brigadier General Artūras Leita, and the Head of the Operations Division at Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein, Group Captain Steve Richards were in attendance, representing the Host Nation and NATO, respectively.

A USAF F-15C aircraft was on static display offering a perfect background to illustrate NATO's solidarity. "BRTEs are conducted for each rotation of the Baltic Air Policing mission", said Brigadier General Leita, "all participating personnel benefit from the training - air traffic controllers and air crew- are trained as well as support personnel, who greatly contribute to the success of air operations." The landing AWACS from the NATO E3A Component at Geilenkirchen, Germany provided a visible sign of NATO's presence. Journalists were invited on board to get first hand information about operational capabilities from the crew and take imagery from the internal layout.

"Including the AWACS into this BRTE VII is a demonstration of NATO's resolve to train and exercise the Air Policing Mission," Group Captain Richards stated, "this mission is vital to the continued security of all NATO nations, including Baltic member. We aim to exercise realistic scenarios to provide useful training for both visiting and Host Nation participants."

The scenario which was flown on the back-up day of 4 November included a communication loss situation. The USAF F-15C Eagle fighters currently conducting Air Policing for the Baltic States out of Šiauliai Air Base intercepted a USAF C-130J Hercules transport aircraft and safely escorted it to Šiauliai. NATO AWACS, the Combined Air Operations Centre at Uedem, Germany, and the Control and Reporting Centre at Karmelava, Lithuania, ensured permanent command and control of the training mission.

BRTEs are one-day training events organized by NATO's Ramstein-based air headquarters to enhance regional air integration and exercise rotational QRA(I)s. The events are open to partner countries.

- END TEXT -

### Note to editors:

For further information please check the HQ AC Ramstein website [www.airn.nato.int](http://www.airn.nato.int) or the Lithuanian Defence Ministry website [www.kam.lt](http://www.kam.lt) or contact the PAO staff at [airn.pao@airn.nato.int](mailto:airn.pao@airn.nato.int).