



HQ AC Ramstein

Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein
Public Affairs Office



Fact Sheet

Basic information about the Lithuanian Air Force Air Base at Šiauliai

Main task:

Prepare and execute air operations, provide air operations support;

Other tasks and functions:

Along with other military units provide Host Nation support to deployed NATO, EU units according to valid legislation;

Execute Search and Rescue operations in the area of the Republic of Lithuania, its territorial waters and the exceptional economical zone;

Conduct medical evacuation and rescue tasks, transport human organs for transplants (according to the valid agreements and unexpected cases);

Provide transportation service for military personnel and governmental delegations as well as cargo loads;

Provide air support for the parachuting training of the Lithuanian Armed Forces;

Execute direct duties 24/7 (Wing Operation Centre).

Cooperate with local community, participates in public events.



Lithuanian Air Force Air Base consists of:

- Headquarters
- Air operation group
- Operation support group

Aircraft stationed at the Air Base:

- Transport aircraft "Spartan" C-27J;
- Transport aircraft Letov L-410 UVP Turbolet;
- Helicopter Mi-8;
- Light attack fighter L-39ZA;
- Aircraft AN-2;
- Aircraft JAK-18T;
- Aircraft JAK-52.

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Air Base history after reestablishment of the Independence of the Republic of Lithuania:

For the first time after reestablishing the Independence of the Republic of Lithuania in 1990, an Antonov AN-2 aircraft – painted with the double cross of Vytis, the emblem of the Lithuania Air Force – scrambled at the Barysai airfield on 12 June 1992. This date is therefore considered the birthday of the air base, at that time the country's First Air Base. At the end of 1995, it was moved to the Zokniai airfield, where - on 1 October 2004 - it was reorganized into one air base with the Pajuostis Second Air Base. Before 2004, only light attack fighters and transport aircraft were deployed at Zokniai; after the reorganization, helicopters from former Second Air Base were also moved here in 2007. The airfield at Šiauliai is now the Lithuanian Air Force air base.

On 17 March 2004, the North Atlantic Council made a political decision allowing member nations' flying units to deploy to Lithuania for the execution of NATO Air Policing. After Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia joined NATO on 29 March 2004, Šiauliai Air Base received the first NATO Quick Reaction Alert Intercept – in short QRA(I) fighters from the Belgian Air Force to execute the Alliance air policing mission. Since then, this mission has been executed by aircrews from the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

The alternate runway and the main runway were opened on 29 October 2005 and 26 September 2006, respectively, after renovation. These two projects were among others funded by the NATO security investment programme and will help to adjust the Air Base infrastructure for NATO tasks.

In 27 December 2006 the first military transport aircraft C-27J Spartan was fielded to the Lithuanian Air Force; in 2008 and 2009 two additional Spartans arrived. They were named „Gediminas“, „Algirdas“ and „Vytautas“.

Between 2001 and 2003 an aircraft and aircrews from the Air Base were deployed in support of NATO operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo. In 2008 soldiers from the Air Base were on stand-by as part of a contingent for the NATO Response Force (NRF) 11; in 2011 troops will again be on stand-by under NRF 17.

Soldiers from the Air Base are deployed to Afghanistan, to run airfield support at Chaghcharan in the Ghorw province, Afghanistan, where Lithuania is the lead nation for a provincial reconstruction team. Currently, aircraft from the Air Base regularly perform flights to Afghanistan. In February 2011, Lithuanian Air Force Air Base pilots and soldiers started a new mission in Afghanistan, to be part of an international air force training group headed by Lithuania, teaching and training Afghan air forces to execute helicopter air operations.

The contacts of the Lithuanian Air Force Air Base:

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