

HQ AIRCOM – New tasks, new faces

NATO Air HQ at Ramstein Air Base becomes the single Allied Air Command

by HQ AIRCOM Public Affairs Office

Under NATO's leaner and more efficient new Command Structure military integration Headquarters have been reduced from eleven to seven. As the new structure unfolds during 2013, the Allied Air

Headquarters at Izmir, Turkey, and Ramstein, Germany, will amalgamate and concentrate at Ramstein. Consequently, General Philip Breedlove, USA Air Force, the new Commander Allied Air Command – or COM AIRCOM – will have responsibility over all air-related matters within NATO. These include core tasks such as collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security as well as enabling functions such as air and space advocacy, capability development and resource governance. Catchwords of this all-encompassing air mission are Air Policing and Ballistic Missile Defence, Support to ISAF, preparation for Article-5 and Crisis Response Operations, Military Partnerships and Civil Military Cooperation, Cooperative Security- to name but a few.



HQ AIRCOM building – a winter impression

The new AIRCOM refers to all air entities in the NATO Command Structure comprising HQ AIRCOM, Ramstein, Germany, the Deployable Air Command and Control Centre (DACCC), Poggio Renatico, Italy, and Combined Air Operations (CAOCs) Torrejon, Spain, and Uedem, Germany.



This new architecture within AIRCOM has also meant new arrivals of personnel on several prominent posts in the HQ AIRCOM. The new Chief of Staff, German Air Force Major General Erich G. Siegmann arrived at the headquarters on 1 January 2013. A pilot of RF-4E Phantom fighter and C-160 Transall transport aircraft, General Siegmann had previously served as Deputy Commander of 2nd Air Division at Birkenfeld, Germany, and Deputy Commander of the German Air Force Air

Operations Command, Kalkar, Germany.

The HQ new structure includes three Deputy Chiefs of Staff (DCOSs) – one each for Operations, Plans and Support. While the DCOS Support, Brigadier General Patrice Laurent, Belgian Air Force, arrived in Ramstein already in March 2012, he was joined by Brigadier Generals John K. McMullen, USA Air Force, and Hakan Evrim, Turkish Air Force late in 2012. DCOS Operations, General McMullen, had been Commander of 325th Fighter Wing at Air Combat Command, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida where he

was in charge of more than 4,000 personnel who train and prepare F-22 Raptor pilots, intelligence
COS Morning Huddle (from left to right): Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) Operations Brigadier General John K. McMullen, USA Air Force, Chief of Staff, Major General Erich G. Siegmann, DEU Air Force, DCOS Support, Brigadier General Patrice Laurent, BEL Air Force, and DCOS Plans Brigadier General Hakan Evrim, TUR Air Force.

officers, maintainers, and other support specialties for worldwide assignment to combat air force units. DCOS Plans, General Evrim, had been the Air Force Deputy Chief of the Planning and Policy Division, advising the Commander of the Turkish Air Force on national security policy issues.

The HQ now has only a few months to come to terms with the new tasks and integrate new staff also from several NATO nations that have so far not sent any contributions to NATO's Air HQ at Ramstein.

The first major task for HQ AIRCOM is ensure command and control for NATO's mission in support of Turkey's air defence capabilities. Under the operational command of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), the Ballistic Missile Cell at HQ AIRCOM will provide control for the defensive assets from the USA, the Netherlands and Germany once these are deployed to Turkey.

This is the new AIRCOM's first contribution to Alliance solidarity and resolve to protect Allied populations and territories.



HQ AIRCOM leadership (from left to right): Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) Support, Brigadier General Patrice Laurent, BEL Air Force,

DCOS Plans Brigadier General Hakan Evrim, TUR Air Force, Chief of Staff, Major General Erich G. Siegmann, DEU Air Force, and DCOS Operations, Brigadier General John K. McMullen, USA Air Force.

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