



## Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
Ramstein Air Base, Germany

### NEWS RELEASE

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## Baltic Region Training Event VI - NATO Trains Forward Air Controllers in Latvia

Ramstein, 7 July. Training NATO Forward Air Controllers (FACs), will be in the focus at Adazi Training Area (TA), Latvia, on 21 and 22 July 2010. This training event for FACs from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is put together by NATO's Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein (HQ AC Ramstein) to demonstrate mutual support among Allies and to hone Air-Land Integration capabilities.

Baltic Region Training Event VI (BRTE VI) is another event in a series that HQ AC Ramstein has scheduled since late 2008 to reaffirm NATO's commitment to and solidarity with the Baltic States and increases NATO's visibility in the region. This time, Allies join their efforts at Adazi, near the Latvian Capital, Riga, to train their FACs in challenging scenarios.

"It's important to train FACs in a realistic way using state-of-the-art NATO-equipment," says Czech Lieutenant Colonel Miroslav Svoboda, the chief of the FAC training branch at Ramstein's NATO air headquarters, "at Adazi, the FACs from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will begin with academic training and then go through hands-on training in realistic scenarios. It's the 'crawl, walk, run' principle of education – meaning that the challenges grow as the training event unfolds."

NATO aircraft play an important part in the scenarios. During the two-day event, Poland will send F-16 Fighting Falcons from Krzesin Air Force Base and the United States deploy their F 16 Fighting Falcons from Aviano Air Base, Italy. Lithuania will send their L-39 Albatros from Siauliai Air Base in support of the training. En route to Latvia, the fighter pilots will perform air-to-air-refueling with an American KC-135 Stratotanker from RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. Once in the Adazi TA, the fighters will provide Close Air Support (CAS) to troops on the ground. This is where the FACs enter the scene. They coordinate with NATO air command and control unit in Lithuania and Latvian Air Traffic Control on how to best get the aircraft to where they are needed. The whole event is controlled by the Combined Air Operations Centre Uedem, Germany.

Routine in nature, BRTE VI is another event to enhance interoperability and further integrate forces from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Once fully trained, FACs from the Baltic countries will deploy to Afghanistan, where air-land integration is essential to air operations.

Latvian Armed Forces HQ and NATO Public Affairs staff from HQ AC Ramstein will conduct a media day at Adazi TA on 22 July. A media advisory will be sent prior to the event

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#### Note to editors:

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