



Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein

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NEWS RELEASE

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NATO Jets Fly Training Missions in Baltic Region

Ramstein, 1 March. On 17 March 2010, Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein (HQ AC Ramstein) will conduct another Baltic Region Training Event (BRTE) in the airspace above Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Aircraft from France, Lithuania, Poland and the United States as well as control centres in Estonia and Latvia will undertake training missions and exercise Air Policing tactics and techniques. BRTE V is the continuation of a training concept to enhance interoperability, build capability and continue air integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

HQ AC Ramstein has scheduled BRTEs since late in 2008 to provide Air Command and Control (Air C2) training for Alliance air assets, reaffirm NATO's commitment and solidarity to the Baltic States and increase NATO visibility in the region. BRTE V is focused on enhancing air interoperability of NATO air forces and practicing special Air Policing procedures. As a highlight, several participating aircraft will land at Tallinn International Airport, Estonia, on 17 March to allow crews to conduct aircraft cross-servicing.

The event is controlled by Combined Air Operations Centre 2 (CAOC2) at Uedem, Germany. In addition to local Air C2 installations, Lithuania will contribute two L39 Albatross aircraft for training missions with Polish F-16 fighters. The scenario for this event allows participants to train Air Policing procedures within the NATO Integrated Air Defence System (NATINADS). French Mirage 2000C, currently serving as NATO's Quick Reaction Alert (Intercept) force, will fly out of Šiauliai airfield, while the United States Air Force is providing an air-to-air refuelling capability for the event. The planned event is subject to changes due to unforeseen developments. 18 and 19 March have been scheduled as weather backup days.

"I am excited to see how BRTE V will unfold," says Lieutenant-Colonel John Festraets, Belgian Air Force, who prepared the event at NATO's air headquarters on Ramstein Airbase, "the BRTE series offers NATO a great opportunity to use regionally-based air assets for realistic training and to sharpen procedures and readiness posture of Baltic indigenous Air C2 facilities."

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Note to editors:

For further information please go to the HQ AC Ramstein BRTE sites at

www.airramstein.nato.int/events.htm

Air Baltic 2010 - French Air Force on the internet

[http://www.defense.gouv.fr/air/base/focus/2010/1er trimestre/air_baltic_2010_la_france_prend_la_releve](http://www.defense.gouv.fr/air/base/focus/2010/1er_trimestre/air_baltic_2010_la_france_prend_la_releve)