

CAOC Uedem Fact Sheet
Combined Air Operations Centre Uedem (CAOC Uedem)
(The former Combined Air Operations Centre 2)

History



Until shortly after the Cold War, the offensive and defensive aerial warfare at the tactical level were executed out of different operation centres. In Central Europe four Allied Tactical Operation Centres (ATOCs) provided command and control for air attacks and four Sector Operation Centres (SOCs) executed the air defence portion. At that time the ATOC was located at a Von-Seydlitz barracks at Kalkar and the SOC was at the Uedem Paulsberg site.

In 1993, under a new NATO Command Structure, the Interim Combined Air Operations Centres (ICAOCs) were established, while the ATOCs and SOCs were closed. Early on it was decided to delete the amendment “Interim” once the the new Air Command & Control System (ACCS) was implemented. Since initially no Recognized Air Picture (RAP) was available at Kalkar, the SOC at Uedem remained in service until March 1994 as a Remote Operation Centre (ROC).

To achieve a CAOC interim deployable capability, the 32nd US Air Operations Group (AOG) and CAOC 2 at Kalkar were commissioned to provide personnel and material. For a better co-ordination and preparation of deployed missions, , the CAOC 2 Detachment was established at Ramstein in September 1996 together with 32nd AOG. In 1997, CAOC 2 Kalkar, CAOC 2 Detachment and the 32nd AOG located at Ramstein successfully passed their deployment verification and have since provided the so-called Interim Deployable CAOC Capability (IDCAOC).

With the adjustment of the Peacetime Establishment (PE) and Crisis Establishment (CE) in 2000, the ICAOC lost the “Interim” status and was converted to a CAOC. To accelerate the process of ACCS implementation, CAOC 2 Kalkar redeployed to the Uedem Paulsberg site and declared full operational capability in March 2006 using the Integrated Command & Control (ICC) system for command and control. Since the closure of CAOC 4 Meßstetten on 30 June 2008, CAOC Uedem’s Air Policing Area comprises the airspace of ten European nations from the BENELUX countries in the west, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the centre, to the Baltic Nations Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in the northeast. On 1 March 2010 CAOC 2 and CAOC 2 Detachment were amalgamated to stand up CAOC Uedem. With this move, CAOC Uedem also took over the specific responsibilities for the Interim Deployable Capability.

Under our primary task of Air Policing we are today closely working with the German National Air Policing Centre (NAPCC), which allows us to thoroughly coordinate air defence operations, procedures and command and control within German airspace.

Within this constellation, CAOC Udem was very much involved in many high visibility events such as the World and European Soccer Championship, the Riga Summit, the visit of Pope Benedict, etc.

Mission

CAOC Udem is to plan, direct, task coordinate, supervise, assess and report on air operations of all allocated assets in peacetime, crisis and conflict in both static and deployed environments as directed by the NATO Air Commander at Ramstein. In addition, CAOC Udem will liaise with the appropriate land and maritime forces and provide co-ordination between national and NATO agencies while conducting Air Policing in its assigned Air Policing Area. CAOC Udem provides Commander Allied Air Command Ramstein with the tools to perform near real-time airpower management. With the closure of the CAOC 2 Detachment on 28 February 2010, CAOC Udem took over their responsibilities for the deployable capability. When required, CAOC Udem may need to forward deploy as IDCAOC (Interim Deployable CAOC) to fulfil this mission.

New Tasks – New Capabilities **Transformation is taking shape in Udem**

The effects of the ongoing process of transformation are just as substantial at the CAOC level, NATO's tactical air warfare command posts. CAOC Udem is facing a period of fundamental technical and organizational change, the main factor in this process being the forthcoming introduction of the new battle management system called Air Command and Control System (ACCS). With its modern and modular system architecture, ACCS will support the operational/tactical-level command and control of air assets in all phases of the command and control process. Real-time data access within the entire system, compilation of information tailored to tasks and levels plus a high-performance presentation of situational awareness data are the key elements that will generate entry into the age of network-centric air operations. The ACCS hardware supports both the stationary facility, the "Below-Ground-Building" (BGB), at Udem and the deployable mission of CAOC Udem, either as a "stand alone" or "reach back" entity or "embedded" in a Joint Force Air Component (JFAC) structure. For CAOC Udem the transformation process will be accompanied by a significant increase in personnel. Once the operational readiness of the ACCS CAOC Udem has been established, it will be SACEUR's only deployable air command and control asset. It will be expandable up to a strength of 250 posts by drawing on personnel from the NATO Command Structure. With its deployable ACCS



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capability, CAOC Uedem will be capable of providing command and control functions for a variety of possible employment options to the NATO air forces. It must be deployable within a minimal specified time, have flexible organizational structures to accomplish specific tasks most efficiently, and be prepared to integrate personnel reinforcements at any time to achieve the required degree of sustainability. In this context, the issue of a standardized ACCS training programme for the entire CAOC community is of special importance. A training concept will be developed that replaces decentralized on-the-job training by special CAOC operations courses training staff to use the ACCS equipment. This will significantly reduce the duration of training, providing standardized training contents and a higher level of proficiency.

Area



CAOC Uedem is headquartered at the Paulsberg site just outside the town of Uedem in the northwest of Germany near the Dutch border.

Most of the CAOC Uedem support functions are accomplished at the nearby Von-Seydlitz barracks. The National Support Units of Belgium, the Netherlands and the United States are also located there.

The CAOC Uedem area with the “BGB” on the right
Courtesy CAOC Uedem

Peace time establishment

Becoming part of the new NATO Command Structure, CAOC Uedem itself will have a future PE of 160 positions. Furthermore, the CAOC will also host a 34-strong NATO Communications and Information Systems (CIS) Service Agency (NCSA) detachment. For both entities the Host Nation Germany provides a considerable number of personnel. For 2010 CAOC Uedem remains a multinationally funded entity comprising 17 different nations. The Commander is always a “triple hatted” German lieutenant general, while the Deputy Commander is a brigadier general, a rotational post manned by Poland and the Netherlands. The crosswalk of personnel from the old peacetime establishment into the new one is currently ongoing.