



Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein

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HQ AC Ramstein completes fifth Training Event in Baltic Region

Ramstein, 17 March. Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein (HQ AC Ramstein) conducted the fifth Baltic Region Training Event (BRTE) in the airspace above Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on 17 March 2010. Aircraft from France, Lithuania, and Poland were flying training missions and exercising Air Policing tactics and techniques, while control centres in Estonia and Latvia provided command and control during the event. BRTE V is the continuation of a training concept to enhance interoperability, build capability and continue air integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

“This mission was executed as planned – 100 percent success,” says Major Paul “Farmer” Wilkerson, the United States Air Force project officer for the training event, “and our air HQ back at Ramstein, Germany, oversaw this event, while the Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) at Uedem, Germany working with the Control and Reporting Centre at Karmelava, Lithuania, and the Control and Reporting Point at Ämari, Estonia, expertly controlled the French, Polish and Lithuanian aircraft during the entire mission. This was an extremely valuable training event applying NATO Air Policing procedures and techniques.”

Lieutenant-Colonel Sébastien “Dodi” Vallette, the French detachment commander, in charge of the BRTE V training assets, was pleased with the outcome of the event, “BRTE V was great training, as we exercised Air Policing procedures with the Lithuanian and Polish fighters. It is important to be familiar with specific intercept situations to be able to act swiftly. After all our mission here is to provide airspace security for our NATO allies.”

The BRTE series is aimed at offering regionally-based air assets realistic training, and sharpening procedures and readiness posture of Baltic indigenous Air C2 facilities. The participating Polish F-16 fighters will take over the Baltic Air Policing mission from the French Mirage 2000C contingent. In May, the Polish Air Force is scheduled to arrive at Siauliai airbase and continue to show the NATO flag assuring the safety and security of the airspace in the Baltic region.

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Note to editors:

For further information please go to the HQ AC Ramstein BRTE sites at www.airn.nato.int