



# CC-Air HQ Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command  
Headquarters Ramstein

Public Affairs Office



## NEWS RELEASE

### NATO Air Policing - Baltic Air Sovereignty Training Event (BAST-E II)

7 April 2009

RAMSTEIN-MIESENBACH, Germany — NATO air units today conducted a joint Air Policing training event in the airspace above three Baltic NATO member countries. This was the second training event of this nature. Air assets from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and the United States of America as well as a NATO E-3A aircraft used the second Baltic Air Sovereignty Training Event (BAST-E) to enhance interoperability and air integration. Air operations during the event were controlled by the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at Karmelava, Lithuania.

“After the very successful BAST-E in October 2008, we are now making this particular training event a regular item on the training calendar for each Quick Reaction Alert (Intercept) (QRA(I)) deployment to the Baltic region,” explained Lieutenant Colonel Werner Hartwig (German Air Force) the operations officers in charge of BAST-E at CC-Air HQ Ramstein, Germany.

NATO’s Baltic QRA(I) mission is conducted by member nations who provide their assets on a rotational basis to ensure the integrity of the Alliance airspace for nations not having the full range of Air Defence (AD) assets in their own militaries providing for a single standard of security within NATO’s Area of Responsibility.

Training of both aircrews and ground stations is an essential element in the process of integrating new member countries in the Air Policing procedures. The one-day BAST-E was an opportunity for the participating nations to enhance their skills in a challenging training scenario. Crews conducted Air Command and Control (C2) training and practised intercepts, cross-border air operations and air-to-air refuelling under standard peacetime operating procedures. The participating aircraft operated from their home bases meaning there was no forward deployment.

A ‘first’ during the BAST-E was the participation of NATO’s Airborne Early Warning and Control Force Command’s E-3A Component (NAEW&CF E-3A Component), which dispatched one of their E-3A aircraft from Geilenkirchen, Germany. The recently upgraded E-3A aircraft is the most modern Air C2 platform in the world and its airborne radar and advanced communication links play a key role in providing airspace security and control for the Alliance. Close communication and data links were established between the E-3A aircraft and the CRC at Karmelava.

“It was our intention to make the first BAST-E in 2009 as successful as the 2008 event,” said LTC Hartwig, “And we succeeded. Besides the training value, BAST-E was an excellent opportunity for NATO to demonstrate commitment and solidarity to the Baltic States and provide air C2 training.”

The training event was closely coordinated with civilian air traffic control agencies in the region.

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Note to editors: for more information - [www.airramstein.nato.int/bast\\_e.htm](http://www.airramstein.nato.int/bast_e.htm)

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