



CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



Press Release

Exercise BRILLIANT ARROW and the NATO RESPONSE FORCE

In the present complex security environment NATO's capability to react to crises swiftly and flexibly is of particular importance. The NATO Response Force (NRF) provides NATO with the necessary capacities.

The concept for the NRF envisages the deployment of an initial entry force to any crisis area worldwide within five days. The joint force as a whole will then be able to sustain itself in the Joint Operations Area for 30 days, or – as required – any longer period, if adequate logistic support is available.

The objective for the NRF is to successfully conduct counter terrorism operations, to help prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to carry out non-combatant evacuation operations. The air forces will accomplish the task of contributing sufficient aircraft and command and control assets to ensure a maximum of 200 sorties per day plus logistic support airlift capacity, if required.

The contributions of individual contingents to the NRF are based on a six-month rotational cycle. Once the NATO Council approves a mission by political decision, Transfer of Authority of the force will take place to the Strategic NATO Commander (SACEUR) for an operation.

SACEUR is also responsible for training and certification of NRF contingents. The training of elements earmarked for the NRF will take six months upon which a NATO certification team will assess and certify uniform standards. Certified formations will then be placed on standby for six months each, during which they may be assigned to NATO for a contingency.

Exercise "BRILLIANT ARROW" is one in a series of exercises qualifying formations and command and control assets, which are soon to be offered as contributions to the NRF. During "BRILLIANT ARROW" formations from 13 nations are involved in exercising joint air missions from almost 20 air bases in Europe. From mission assignment via centralised planning to the individual planning process at various formations and the execution of an operation – everything takes place in a multinational environment that necessitates joint practising of individual steps and different procedures of the nations involved.

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