

## Phantom Jets Training For Emergency

### GE AIR FORCE – Exercise “Brilliant Arrow” Starts – Operations in North Sea Airspace

Air Forces from 13 nations are participating in the NATO exercise. The forces include Phantom fighter aircraft from the Richthofen Wing stationed at Wittmund.

*by Ulrich Schönborn*

**UPJEVER/WITTMUND** – Air force formations from 13 nations have commenced yesterday to train for combined missions. Exercise “Brilliant Arrow” (*the NWZ newspaper already reported*) also involves the Phantom aircraft from Fighter Wing 71 “Richthofen” at Wittmund. The Air Base at Upjever is not being used during the exercise. Nevertheless, according to information from the German Air Force, the population has to anticipate increased flight activities in the skies above Jeverland lasting until 7 April.

#### **NATO’s “Rapid Reaction Force”**

**The NATO Response Force (NRF)** is to offer the military alliance the capability of reacting swiftly and flexibly to any crises.

**The NATO force** is to be capable of fighting international terror, preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destructions and evacuating civilians at risk.

**The NRF contingents** are newly assigned every six months. Exercises like “Brilliant Arrow” ensure the smooth interaction of the international task force.

The exercise area covers a space from the Shetland Islands to the Ruhr area in the centre of Germany. One focus will be on the airspace above the North Sea.

According to LTC Meinrad Angermayer from the NATO Press and Information Office the exercise objective is to train international formations in cooperating under the NATO Response Force (cf. info box).

LTC Angermayer was not able to predict the exact number of sorties to be flown above the Jeverland as the overflying areas will be constantly updated depending on the weather and the exercise profile.

The German Air Force has set up a cost-free citizens’ helpline (at 0800 / 86 20 730) to accommodate complaints about aircraft noise.

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