



# CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



## Press Release

### **CAOC 2: State-of-the-Art Engineering For More Security**



**Uedem, Germany** – During a ceremony held on 19 April 2006, General Gerhard W. Back, General William Tom Hobbins and Lieutenant-General Hans-Joachim Schubert inaugurated the new building for the Combined Air Operations Centre 2 (CAOC 2). Within NATO's Integrated Air Defence System, CAOC 2 will keep a major role also in the future. After a forthcoming technical modernization of the Air Defence System, CAOC 2 will be one of two remaining Combined Air Operation Centres in the northern region. After five and a half years of construction the new HQ building at Uedem is now finished at last. It is the workplace for 93 military personnel from several nations. The former bunker facility the British had built during the 1950s was almost doubled in size. The underground structure is 18 m below the surface. Some 85,000 m<sup>3</sup> of soil were moved; 1,200 tons of steel and 11,000 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete were used.

Lieutenant-General Hans-Joachim Schubert (Commander, CAOC 2) and General William Tom Hobbins (Commander, Allied Air Component Command in Ramstein) thanked all those who achieved this masterpiece. Among others, the guest list featured General Gerhard W. Back (Commander-in-Chief, Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum), Lieutenant-General Heinz Marzi (Vice Chief of Staff, Air Force) and the North Rhine-Westphalia Minister of Finance Dr. Helmut Linssen.



The ceremony was also attended by representatives of the Bundeswehr, the German Police and guests from politics and industry. 3<sup>rd</sup> German Air Force Band based at Münster, under its conductor LTC Michael Wintering, the honour platoon of Air Force ground combat support battalion at Fighter Bomber Wing 31 "Boelcke" based at Nörvenich, the US Colour Guard flag detachment of the US Air Force at Spangdahlem and the entire CAOC 2 staff were facing the front of the three generals. The parade was commanded by Group Captain John Scholtens.

EDITORIAL STAFF:

CC-Air HQ Ramstein, Public Information Office  
Ramstein Air Base , Bldg 313  
66877 Ramstein – Miesenbach  
[www.airramstein.nato.int](http://www.airramstein.nato.int)

Tel.: 06371/402060 or 402063  
Fax: 06371/401093  
e-mail: [pio@airnorth.nato.int](mailto:pio@airnorth.nato.int)

## Underground Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC)



CAOC 2 is a multinational command centre that replaced the Air Tactical Operations Centre (ATOC) and the Sector Operations Centre (SOC). It is the essential command and control element under the future Allied Command and Control System (ACCS). By 2007 installation of all equipment will be completed. The CAOC 2 mission is to ensure planning, controlling, monitoring and coordination of operations of assigned air forces as directed

by the regional air commander. The conversion of the bunker now permits, in a contingency, to carry out these tasks from a protected facility. Safety Officer Captain Frank Markus explains that online access control allows to continuously determine the number of persons inside the facility.