



CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



Press Release

NATO Air Force Headquarters Moves into New Building

Ramstein (ang). On 7 October, after a construction period of more than two years, the new building for the staff of Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein was officially opened. The opening ceremony was attended by high-ranking NATO officers and representatives of the Rhineland-Palatinate state government, regional members of the Federal and State Parliaments as well as mayors and representatives from public life.

For the currently 550 NATO staff in the Palatinate, the move into the new building that has been ongoing since May marks the end of almost permanent stopgap measures. As a consequence of various reorganisations in the headquarters' history the staff had been scattered about the air base in twelve different facilities. The move to the state-of-the-art office complex also brings some infrastructural advantages. The new building holds a sufficient number of conference, office and representative rooms fitted with modern information and communication technologies.

The commander of the superior headquarters Joint Force Command at Brunssum, the Netherlands, General Gerhard Back, was the highest NATO representative to attend the opening ceremony. In his speech he underlined that the new modern building was not an end in itself and that actually Allied Air Component Command Ramstein was facing tremendous tasks. The general mentioned NATO's most important challenge at the moment, i.e. the ISAF support mission in Afghanistan, the Alliance's first out-of-area operation. In this context the Ramstein-based CC-Air HQ is in command of the ISAF air component. Besides, the general carried on, NATO was facing the challenges ensuing from the new role of an expeditionary force. During the Prague Summit in 2002 the political leaders tasked the Alliance to develop and have on stand-by pertinent capabilities. By mid-2006, General Back announced, the required operational NATO Response Force (NRF) and their command structures should have been established.

Following the ribbon cutting, guests were invited to attend a reception and to tour parts of the building with its nearly 14,000 square metre offices. The USAFE Band, based at Sembach, provided the musical support for the ceremony.

EDITORIAL STAFF:

CC-Air HQ Ramstein, Public Information Office
Ramstein Air Base , Bldg 313
66877 Ramstein – Miesenbach
www.airramstein.nato.int

Tel.: 06371/402060 or 402063
Fax: 06371/401093
e-mail: pio@airnorth.nato.int