



CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



Press Release

CAOC Commanders Conference held in Lithuania



Kaunas/Ramstein (ang). The Commanders of Allied Air Component Command Ramstein's Combined Air Operation Centres (CAOCs) met in Lithuania this January for their annual conference. The NATO Air Force general officers from the northern European region attended the meeting to discuss current programmes and developments. The conference was directed by General William T. Hobbins (USA), the NATO AIR Commander Ramstein. In addition to

the busy two-day schedule there were some formal and informal meetings offering an opportunity to exchange views and experiences away from a tight official protocol. The Headquarters at Ramstein, Germany, is in charge of northern Europe's five CAOCs. Their primary responsibility is the ensuring of the respective air space ("Air Policing").

The Conference participants landed on C-130 aircraft at Siauliai Air Base, where they were greeted by Lithuanian Air Force Commander Colonel Arturas Leita and Base Commander Lieutenant Colonel Audronis Navickas. The Conference program started with a visit of the Siauliai Air Base, that hosts the NATO Air Policing QRA (Quick Reaction Alert) for the Baltics. Some background information on the conditions on Base and a guided tour to QRA area was set up. Additionally the Belgium detachment, that is responsible for the QRA deployment until early March 2007, performed a Tango Scramble by two F-16s.

Then the participants flew to Karmelava Air Base where they could get familiar with the Baltic Countries' Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) Karmelava.

The official conference programme in the near Lithuanian city Kaunas reflected a wide range of topics, with the focus on Air Policing matters. The commanders took a special interest in the Air Policing situation in the Baltic States, discussing subjects like the live fly training opportunities for the QRA, the radio communication situation or the training for Air Traffic Control personnel. The agenda also covered aspects of further technical development such as "status of the CAOCs' modernisation measures". Other issues included the NATO Response Force (NRF) and the development of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.



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