



CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



Press Release

Hessian Minister President Visits Air Base



Ramstein-Miesenbach (ang). High-level visitor at Ramstein Air Base: Minister President Roland Koch from the Hessian Capital Wiesbaden had been invited by General William T. Hobbins, Commander Allied Air Component Command Ramstein, for a brief visit that took place on Monday, 05 March 2007. The political guest was particularly interested in the NATO HQ and the progress of the Air Base development.

At about 1100 hours, the police helicopter with Minister President Koch on board landed at Ramstein Air Base. General William T. Hobbins, dual-hatted as NATO Air Commander in Ramstein and Commander United States Air Forces in Europe, welcomed the guest from the German State of Hessen. General Hobbins was accompanied by his NATO Deputy, Lieutenant General Horst Martin, the Commander of the Ramstein Airlift Wing, Brigadier General Johnston, and the US Consul General Jo Ellen Powell.

The visit started off with a tour of the new Air Base terminal building. Under an agreement between the German States of Rheinland-Pfalz and Hessen and the US Air Force, the military part of Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt had been handed back to Hessen in December 2005; in compensation a development programme was started for Ramstein Air Base, which will make the Palatinate base a new hub not only for cargo but also for passenger airlift. Required investments for appropriate infrastructure measures were co-funded by Hessen.

Following the tour, Minister President Koch was briefed on the structure and mission of the NATO air headquarters. Lieutenant General Horst Martin explained the staff's three major tasks: the Ramstein NATO command is responsible for carrying out 24/7 Air Policing and controlling response measures during air incidents. In addition, the headquarters and all its subordinate agencies are involved in coordination for all flight activities in Afghanistan and for the command and control of military flight activities under ISAF. Last, but not least, the staff will remain at an elevated readiness posture as it provides the Air Force Command Element of the NATO Response Force (NRF), NATO's reaction forces.

After a quick tour of the NATO building, the hosts saw Minister President Roland Koch off to Wiesbaden. The picture shows General Hobbins (left) with his guest.

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