



CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



Press Release

NATO Commanders Meet in Ramstein

One issue being the ISAF strategy



Ramstein-Miesenbach (ang). At the end of October, NATO commanders from the area of Joint Force Command Brunssum met at Ramstein Air Base for their annual conference. The high-level flag officer meeting was hosted by Allied Air Component Command and on the agenda there were pressing issues such as NATO's mission in Afghanistan and the transformation of the NATO Command Structure.

German General Egon Ramms, Commander of Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum, convened his subordinate commanders of the Land, Air and Maritime components to what was to be a rather short Commanders' Conference. Nevertheless some key topics including NATO's ongoing operations in Afghanistan and possible amendments to the operation plan were at the centre of discussions. In this context, the commander of Allied Maritime Component Command, Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, presented the involvement of the Standing NATO Maritime Group in anti-terrorism measures. Another item on the agenda were the exercises projected for the coming years. In 2008, exercise STEADFAST JOIST, the continuation of what has so far been NATO's largest deployment exercise, which took place in Cape Verde in 2006, will be the focus for the three component commands and their higher headquarters at Brunssum, The Netherlands.

Against the current background of increased Russian long-range aviation activities, General William T. Hobbins, commander of the hosting CC-Air Ramstein, explained to his colleagues the Air Policing measures, which he and his staff are conducting together with the assigned Combined Air Operations Centres or CAOCs.

Another main item for discussion was the reorganization of NATO's Command Structure and expected ensuing consequences in the JFC Brunssum area.

While this was the first time for German Lieutenant General Roland Kather to attend the commanders' conference, as he only assumed his post as Land Component Commander in Heidelberg earlier in October this year, General Hobbins and Admiral Burnell-Nugent made their farewell appearance on this occasion as they are both going to retire from active duty before long.



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Photos:

The official Group Photo shows (from left) Air Marshal Christopher Moran (DCOM JFC Brunssum), Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent (COM CC-Maritime), General William T. Hobbins (COM CC-Air), General Egon Ramms (COM JFC Brunssum), Lieutenant General Roland Kather (COM Land-CC) and Lieutenant General Jean-Pierre Bovy (Chief of Staff JFC Brunssum).

The second picture gives an impression from the conference.

Photos by Public Information Office.