



CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



Press Release

Farewell to Air-COM Ramstein



Ramstein-Miesenbach. On 10 December 2007, the Commander of Allied Air Component Command Ramstein, U.S. four-star General William T. Hobbins, retired from active duty during a formal ceremony. After 38 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, he will enter his well-deserved retirement effective 1 February 2008. Since he arrived Ramstein on 6 December 2005, General Hobbins has not only served as Air-COM, but also as Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) at Ramstein Air Base and Director

of the Joint Air Power Competency Centre at Kalkar, GE.

In his NATO duties, General Hobbins has been responsible for Air Policing and security in the NATO member nations' air space, within the CC-Air Ramstein area of responsibility. Also during his tenure, CC-Air Ramstein was on stand-by for the NATO Response Force 7 and 8. Additionally, the HQ provided air expertise and reach back support for the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

General Hobbins is a command pilot with more than 5,000 flying hours, primarily on fighter aircraft including the F-15 and the A-10. He also had a considerable number of flying hours on the C-20.

In the presence of many high-level representatives from the civilian and military arena, General Hobbins was released from his responsibility as a NATO commander by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General John Craddock. SACEUR also awarded him the NATO Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his service. Subsequently, General T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, officially released him from his U.S. national command.

Earlier the same day, General Hobbins bade farewell to his NATO staff at CC-Air Headquarters Ramstein. During a traditional walk-out ceremony, he left the HQ for the last time with his staff lined up outside the NATO building, giving him a long round of applause.



On 6 December 2007, General Hobbins was honoured by the Host Nation, Germany, when the Chief of Staff of the German Air Force, Lieutenant General Klaus Peter Stieglitz, had a Großer Zapfenstreich or Grand Tattoo organised for him at the Hardthöhe near Bonn to say his farewells. This ceremony is the Bundeswehr's most important military function.

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The President of the United States nominated to the U.S. Congress Lieutenant-General Roger A. Brady as General Hobbins' successor. Congress may confirm nomination later this month, meaning that CC-Air Ramstein and USAFE could welcome their new commander shortly after the new year. (af)

Photo captions:

Picture 1 - Outgoing Air-COM Ramstein, General William T. Hobbins (left) and Chief of Staff, German Air Force, Lieutenant General Klaus-Peter Stieglitz (right). Photo by Sgt1 Limpens, NLD AF, PIO CC-AIR HQ Ramstein.

Picture 2 - Walkout – Air Marshal David Walker (top centre) seeing General Hobbins off at CC-Air HQ Ramstein main entrance. Photo by Sgt1 Limpens, NLD AF, PIO CC-AIR HQ Ramstein.