



CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



Press Release

NATO Commanders discuss future CAOC posture



Ramstein-Miesenbach (reu). On 19 and 20 May 2008, General Roger A. Brady, Commander of Allied Air Component Command Ramstein, and Lieutenant General Maurice L. McFann Jr., Commander of Allied Air Component Command Izmir, chaired the NATO Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) Commanders' Conference in Lyon, France. In his opening remarks, Lieutenant General Patrick de Rousiers on behalf of General Stéphane Abrial, Chief of Staff of the French Air Force, addressed the participants wishing them successful and fruitful discussions.

The meeting focused on the NATO CAOC organisation. At present there are nine CAOCs within Allied Command Operations (ACO), assigned to the two air component commands in the north and the south, plus one French national CAOC, the *Centre de Conduite des Opérations Aériennes* at Taverny and Lyon. The main task of the CAOCs is to conduct Air Policing, monitoring the integrity of NATO's airspace.

Each of the multinational centres has been governed by a Memorandum of Understanding, under which several nations agreed to provide staff to fill posts of an individual CAOC. It is now planned to transform the CAOC structure into the NATO Command Structure. Therefore, an Interim CAOC Structure has been created, aimed at reducing the number of CAOCs to four, split between the two air component commands, plus the French national CAOC. The ICS will be activated in July 2008 for CC-Air Ramstein and early in 2009 for CC-Air Izmir. The new lean structure will then be implemented once NATO's new Air Command and Control System (ACCS) is introduced. ACCS will enable an improved command and control capability, and permit NATO to continue efficient and effective Air Policing ensuring the security of its member nations' airspace.

This annual conference is a welcome opportunity for air commanders to exchange views and coordinate approaches on a variety of air power issues.

Photo caption: Participants of the NATO CAOC Commanders' Conference meeting with General Roger A. Brady, Lieutenant General Patrick de Rousiers and Lieutenant General Maurice L. McFann in the front row from left to right.

Photo by Air Base 942, Lyon Mont Verdun.

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