



German Air Force Press and Information Center

Press Release

Cologne, 24 August 2009
No.: 19/2009

German Air Force to conduct once more NATO Air Policing over Baltic States First EUROFIGHTER deployment outside Germany

Starting 1 September 2009, the German Air Force (GAF) will once more conduct the NATO Baltic air policing mission for preserving the integrity of and protecting the air-space over the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The mission that is part of the NATO Integrated Air Defense over the three Baltic states will be transferred from the Czech Republic to Germany which will assume the task until 4 January 2010. To this end, the GAF will for the first time employ EUROFIGHTER fighter aircraft that will be deployed to Lithuania with approx. 100 servicemen and -women.

In the course of its enlargement in April 2004, NATO committed to fully grant the new members Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania the same standard of air policing and safeguarding air sovereignty rights accorded to any NATO member state, in form of the NATO Baltic air policing mission. These support measures are meant to bridge the time until the concerned states will have developed their own air defense capabilities. Since 2004, contingents from by now 14 nations have provided air policing assets on a rotating basis.

In the first half of the operational phase, the air patrol will be performed by EUROFIGHTER aircraft from Fighter Wing 74 based in Neuburg an der Donau /Bavaria. From 3 November on, F-4F PHANTOM aircraft from Fighter Wing 71 "Richthofen" in Wittmund/Lower Saxony will take over the helm. The Šiauliai Air Base in Northern Lithuania will serve as base of operations.



Moreover, interceptor controllers from the GAF Tactical Air Command and Control Service will be assigned to the multinational air defense operations center in the Lithuanian Kaunas region. They will assist the Baltic technical staff in generating and assessing the air situation picture and in controlling the quick reaction alert elements from the competent control center. Besides, the GAF Force Protection Regiment "Friesland" from Jever/Lower Saxony will assign some of its fire-fighting personnel to Šiauliai Air Base to support the Lithuanian airfield fire department.



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Notes to the Press:

Media representatives are invited to report on the tasks and activities of the German Air Force (GAF) during the "NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission 2009" in the period of time specified above.

The GAF Press and Information Center (see below) will inform you on the means of transport available for research purposes on site.

Early registration is required to allow further planning and coordination of a press program.

Accreditation: Interested media representatives are asked to use the attached form to specify research requests and for accreditation with the

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(GAF Press and Information Center)
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Please use the following link to additionally register for accreditation with the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania
<http://media.mfa.lt/index.php?147055811>

(This link will provide information on the accreditation process in Lithuania; Para. 10.2. contains the link to the accreditation form.
Note: Accreditation must have been obtained at least 14 days prior to your visit.)

Enquiries: Tel.: +49 (0)2203 908-4736 or
E-mail: PIZLwPresse@bundeswehr.org

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Further information on the rotation ceremony and GAF participation in the NATO air policing mission will be posted on the GAF website www.luftwaffe.de. Here, media representatives can find current press releases and photos available free of charge.



Accreditation Form

Reporting on “NATO Baltic Air Policing 2009” by the German Air Force

To

Presse- und Informationszentrum der Luftwaffe

Fax: +49 (0)2203 908-2010

E-mail: AirPolicingBaltikumPublicAffairs@bundeswehr.org

The following personal data are required to realize the participation of accredited media representatives, taking into account security-related requirements.

The legal basis for the collection, processing and utilization of these data is § 12, Sect. 1, in connection with §§ 13 ff of the Federal Data Protection Act. In order to check security-relevant concerns, the data will be sent to the Federal Criminal Police Office or the competent Land Criminal Police Office.

The Federal Ministry of Defense acting as data privacy authority will delete these personal data no later than three months after the above event.

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