



Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein



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NEWS RELEASE

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NATO Air-Land-Integration at Adazi Training Area

Ramstein, 5 July 11 – “Just received IED strike, probably 50 m from third vehicle” – “Contact” – “We have troops in contact! Request immediate Show of Force over friendly position from north to south! How copy?” This kind of radio conversation can be heard at the Adazi Training Area, some 15 kms north west of the Latvian Capital Riga on 12 July 2011 when Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein (HQ AC Ramstein) organises the ninth Baltic Region Training Event (BRTE IX). On the ground Forward Air Controller (FAC) teams from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will practise how to call in Close Air Support in a simulated “troops in contact” situation. The Lithuanian Air Force will provide their L-39 jet as air platform for the training.

On 11 July, a FAC academic session is taught by Master Sergeant (MSgt) Jay Lemley, United States Air Forces in Europe, and Hauptfeldwebel (HptFw) Martin Littner, German Air Force, HQ AC Ramstein, to prepare the teams for their practical training. “During this part we will provide a first in-brief and explain the students how to use the Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) equipment”, says MSgt Lemley, “via this equipment we can see the exact view the pilot has in the cockpit. It allows us to guide the pilot and refine where the target is.”

BRTE IX execution takes place on 12 July in two phases. The training in the morning involves the FACs on the ground and the NATO aircraft in the skies. “The main focus for the FACs is on currency of capabilities and ROVER training”, says HptFw Littner, “in coordination with the FAC Capability Branch of HQ AC Ramstein the host nation creates realistic scenarios geared to participating aircraft, terrain features and FAC requirements.”

The second execution phase of BRTE IX involves the Quick Reaction Alert (Interceptor) (QRA(I)) assets and takes place in the afternoon of 12 July. The French Mirage 2000 currently stationed at Šiauliai, Lithuania, train an air assistance scenario with the LTU L-39 jet, and also divert to an alternate airfield.

BRTE IX continues to display Alliance solidarity, partnership and integration. While other NATO Nations offer Air Policing assets for the Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania provide trained and qualified FAC personnel as one of their commitments to the Alliance. The mix of Allied ground and air assets shows NATO at its best – train as you operate.

Scheduled since late in 2008, BRTEs have provided Air Command and Control training for Alliance air assets and reaffirm NATO’s solidarity with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. They have demonstrated how NATO ensures the security of Alliance airspace. “This time the scope of the training event is again on Air-Land-Integration, an important part of any joint campaign”, says Brigadier General Gianni Baron, Italian Air Force and Deputy Chief of Staff Operations at HQ AC Ramstein. BRTEs are conducted in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards.

Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) Uedem, Germany, and the Baltic Combined Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at Karmelava, Lithuania, handle the air control and reporting for the event.

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Note to editors:

HQ AC Ramstein Public Affairs Office together with the Latvian Armed Forces HQ Public Affairs Office will conduct a media event on 12 July at Adazi Training Area. A separate media advisory will be published in due course. Only the FAC training is portrayed in the media event.

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