

Ramstein Air Base and the War in Ukraine

By Reiner Braun

My article focuses on the role of Ramstein Air Base in the Ukraine war. It does not consider the drone warfare, which is against international law, or even the Air Base's role in missile defense, or the coordinating role the Air Base has for many wars of intervention around the world.

For a little over a year, the Air Base has had a historic, absolutely new specific role. It is the coordination center of NATO's involvement in the Ukraine war that was established at the Air Base last May as the so-called Contact Group. The so-called Ukraine Contact Group, which is the defense ministers, possibly the foreign ministers and their staffs, and then primarily military personnel, to coordinate NATO's engagement in the Ukraine war. They develop their strategy, their tactics, their engagement in this contact group. It is a contact group of all 32 NATO countries and NATO's strongest allies in other parts of the world, in this case Japan and South Korea in particular, are present, they are usually represented in the contact group with a vice minister of defense.

This coordination committee is responsible for everything that NATO does in Ukraine and in the war. And the first interesting point is, who chairs this meeting? Who invites to this meeting? It is a meeting in Germany, but it is invited by the Secretary of Defense of the United States to an American air base. He, Secretary of Defense Austin, also chairs these meetings. Germany participates. So much for Germany's sovereignty, at least in this case. A U.S. general also briefed at the first press conference. General Mullaney, the top U.S. commander, commented in July on the demands that the war in Ukraine was making on NATO, was quite critical of the prospects for success as well, and called for more weapons and more intensive support from all NATO partners, especially from the German government, which devotedly followed these demands.

So a war mission is being planned in Germany, on German soil. The logical consequence is that Germany is also an active war party. What the German government denies. Even the scientific service of the German Bundestag formulates a little more politely that the Federal Republic is "partly" part of this war. But if a war is strategically developed, organized, trained on German soil - What is that?

Active participation in the war. To deny this may be politically and publicly opportune. But it remains the untruth.

War is again starting from German soil! And the practice proves it. The air base is the logistic center for all kinds of transport of military equipment either via Poland or directly to the government of Ukraine. Tanks, ammunition, weapons, drones, everything is delivered. Even weapons whose destructive power reaches into Russia.

The shipments are handled through the logistical center in Ramstein. This is the reason why in recent days the planes no longer fly only every 15 minutes, but they sometimes fly every 2 minutes. The noise and environmental impact on the people of the region is well known.

But it is not only about the logistic equipment, but secondly about the transportation of the military personnel of NATO, especially of the USA involved in the Ukraine war.

They are not sending soldiers. They are sending military advisors to the Ukrainian army and to the Ukrainian president, to Ukraine's intelligence services, and to the strategic coordination center of the general staff and the individual command structures of the Ukrainian war. These officers from NATO countries, mainly from the U.S., but also from the U.K. and also from Germany, are being prepared in Ramstein for their work in Ukraine. At least ten of these officers who come back wounded have then been treated in the hospital in Landstuhl, and some have also ended up in Russian captivity

The third point is that these military bases are a coordination center for training Ukrainian soldiers and officers in Germany and in other NATO countries.

These officers and soldiers, who were supposed to be trained in different countries and military bases, are flown in via Ramstein and instructed in their further training. Then they were and will be distributed to separate equipping places and military bases all over NATO countries in Europe.

The fourth point of active war participation is: Ramstein is the logistic center for observation and reconnaissance of the entire Ukrainian airspace.

All satellite control, deployment action of artillery, orders for bombing are carried out from here. Ramstein is an intelligent warfare, information and intelligence center, which of course includes detailed satellite control of the opposite side. NATO monitors the entire territory of Russian-occupied Ukraine and beyond. Non-military orders for frontline operations, but detailed information is given to command centers in Ukraine, whether for bombing or the use of artillery.

From Ramstein, satellites also monitor surrounding countries such as Poland, like Romania, to see what developments are happening there that are important for military or logistical purposes.

In view of these new, additional war functions of Ramstein Air Base, it remains important and on the agenda in the short term to do everything possible to work for negotiations and a ceasefire and to continue our actions for the closure of this terrible military base.