

**DATE**

19 May 2025

OUR REF.

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FROM

The Executive Director of the Joint Air Power Competence Centre (JAPCC)

TO

Major General Andrus Merilo
Estonian Defence Forces
Chief of Defence

SUBJECT

Announcement of the 2025 Joint Air and Space Power Conference
"Disrupting Dominance: The Future of Air Superiority?"
Grugahalle, Essen, Germany | 30 September – 2 October 2025

Dear Major General Merilo,

We are pleased to announce the 2025 Joint Air and Space Power Conference, the premier strategic forum where senior leaders, military experts, policymakers, and industry innovators will gather to explore the future of NATO's air and space power. This year's conference holds particular significance as we mark the 20th anniversary of the Joint Air Power Competence Centre — a milestone that underscores our enduring commitment to advancing joint air and space thinking across the Alliance.

For two decades, JAPCC has played a leading role in shaping NATO's air and space posture. Now we confront one of our greatest challenges yet. For years, NATO's dominance in the air and space domains has been central to its deterrence strategy. But technological disruption, peer competition, and the proliferation of advanced, accessible weapons — from low-cost drones to hypersonic and sixth-generation systems — are rapidly transforming the strategic landscape. In this context, NATO must develop new approaches to maintain its edge in increasingly contested skies.

Under the theme "Disrupting Dominance: The Future of Air Superiority?", the 2025 conference will examine how NATO can adapt to this shifting environment. The programme will feature four high-level panels that explore the evolving nature of air and space power, the impact of emerging technologies, the need for faster innovation, and the strategic choices the Alliance must make if conflict becomes likely within the next decade. The conference aims to deliver clear, actionable insights that support NATO's continued readiness and relevance.

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In response to growing interest and record attendance in recent years, the 2025 conference will take place in a new venue: the Grugahalle in Essen. Located directly next to our previous venue, Messe Essen, the Grugahalle offers a significantly larger and more versatile space that will enhance the overall conference experience while maintaining the convenience and familiarity of the established location. The new venue allows for an expanded exhibition area, featuring larger and more accessible exhibitor booths, interactive displays, and private meeting rooms—all situated on the same level as the main conference hall. This layout is designed to foster seamless engagement between delegates, industry partners, and exhibitors, creating new opportunities for collaboration and networking throughout the event.

The JAPCC's Director and I encourage you to be part of this landmark event. As we celebrate JAPCC's 20 years of thought leadership and look ahead to the future of air and space power, the 2025 Joint Air and Space Power Conference will offer an unmatched opportunity to shape the strategic conversation at a critical moment for the Alliance.

I also encourage you to pass this letter on to members of your organization that might benefit from participating in our conference. For secure online registration with your business email address, please visit www.japcc.org/conference. Early registrations are very much appreciated to support our planning. Should you need any additional information, please contact our conference team at conference@japcc.org or by phone at +49 2824 90 2224.

We look forward to meeting you this autumn.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Thorsten Poschwatta
Lieutenant General, DEU AF
Executive Director, JAPCC