



Lieutenant General Dennis Luyt
Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air Force

High-Level Military Forum

**Deep Integration and Adaptive Armed Forces –
prospects for further European military integration**

Wednesday, 28th November 2018, 15:30 – 17:00h

Lieutenant General D.J. (Dennis) Luyt was appointed as Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air Force as of June 10, 2016. His number one priority is to create and sustain an Air Force that is relevant.

The Royal Netherlands Air Force is in high demand as a partner in international coalitions. However, the protracted missions over the past decade, in Afghanistan, Mali, Iraq and Syria, have taken their toll. In today's security environment air superiority is no longer a given. Our fellow soldiers and our partners at home and abroad rely on us to establish that air superiority where necessary.

Large-scale deployments as part of a NATO-led air campaign are no longer a hypothetical scenario. Indeed, we may even be called upon to do so tomorrow. General Luyt intends to have the Royal Netherlands Air Force ready again for such actual deployment. That is why he will give priority – to the maximum extent possible - to improving the level of readiness of the Royal Netherlands Air Force for operations across the entire spectrum of missions.

With the arrival of the F-35, the operations of the Royal Netherlands Air Force will become much more information-driven.

This will entail accessing the various sectors in the information domain in ways that we can hardly imagine at this point. It is obvious to him that the Air Force cannot achieve this on its own. That is why he is explicitly seeking connectivity with our colleagues of the Army, the Navy, the Royal Marechaussee, the Defence Materiel Organisation, and our Military Intelligence and Security Service.

This also includes our partners in other defence agencies, in the air and space domain, the knowledge institutions and NATO. We can only be successful in getting the Armed Forces ready for future operations if we do this together.

With the transition to a fifth-generation air force, the Royal Netherlands Air Force will be an important lynchpin in this partnership. He will therefore continue on the existing path of permanent investment towards further modernization and innovation of our Air Force.

It is also what the rapidly changing environment in which the Air Force has to deliver its striking power demands from us.

He is keenly aware of the fact that the way we are operating today is simply not good enough for the flying operations of tomorrow. Focusing on this aspect means explicitly linking the execution of today's missions with those of tomorrow and with the transition to the fifth-generation Air Force.

Military career

Lieutenant General Luyt started his military career at the Royal Military Academy in 1981. After studying Aircraft Engineering, he attended pilot training at the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) in the United States in 1985, receiving his wings in December of the same year.

In 1986, he received conversion training for the NF-5 at Twente Air Base, followed by conversion training for the F-16 two years later.