



Lieutenant General Martin Wijnen
Commander of the Royal Netherlands Army

Panel B5

Joint and Combined Armed Forces / Multinational Formations in a 3600 approach – what is the main effort?

Wednesday, 27th November 2019, 11:45 – 13:15 h

Martin Wijnen was born in Hattem on the 3rd of February 1966. He graduated as best man from the Royal Military Academy in 1989 and was posted to 41 Armoured Engineer Company in Germany as a Lieutenant. In 1992, he was appointed as a Staff Officer Operations to HQ 1st Division “7 December” and promoted to Captain. During this time he led an UNTAC mine clearance and training team in Cambodia. Subsequently, he was assigned to 102 Construction Company as the Deputy Commander during which time he deployed to St-Maarten (Emergency Aid, 1995) and to Bosnia (IFOR-I, 1996).

After completing the Netherlands Command and General Staff Officers Course, he served as Staff Officer Plans Integration in the Army Staff. In 2000, he attended the US Army Command and General Staff Officers Course in Leavenworth, Kansas, obtaining the title of ‘Master of Military Art and Science (MMAS)’. After that he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and posted to the Defence College as Head of the Strategy Department. After the attacks on 9/11, he was appointed as liaison officer to HQ USCENTCOM in Tampa, Florida, for Operation Enduring Freedom and the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. In 2003, he again became Plans Integration Officer, this time within the Defence Staff.

In 2005, he took over command of 11 Armoured Engineer Battalion and thereafter he was appointed as Chief of the Policy Support Branch, Army Staff, as a Colonel. In May 2009, he deployed to Afghanistan as Chief of the Plans Branch for HQ ISAF Regional Command South. He then attended the Advanced Defence Course at the Netherlands Institute for International Relations, Clingendael. After that worked for two years as a Program Manager for the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Ministry of Justice.

Promoted to Brigadier General in 2012, he was appointed as Deputy Director Plans within the Defence Staff. In 2014, he took over command of 43 Mechanized Brigade in Havelte and in 2016 he became the Deputy Commander of the Royal Netherlands Army in the rank of Major General. A year and a half later, he promoted to Lieutenant General upon accepting the role of Vice Chief of Defence. In August 2019, Lieutenant General Wijnen assumed command of the Royal Netherlands Army.

Martin Wijnen lives in Enschede with his wife Alette. They have two children, Marit (1998) and Anne-Jan (2002).