



Royal Netherlands Air Force

## Curriculum Vitae

# Lieutenant General Dennis Luyt



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.

Royal Netherlands  
Air Force

Between 1986 and 1993, he was assigned to 313 Squadron, where he successfully held operational positions ranging from wingman (as 2nd and 1st lieutenant) to flight commander (in the rank of captain). At this time, he was deployed as a flight commander to Italy, where he took part in Operation DENY FLIGHT over Former Yugoslavia.

In the three years that followed, Dennis Luyt was deployed as an exchange pilot to CF-18 with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

After his return, he attended the Officers' course at the Netherlands Defence College and was subsequently assigned, in the rank of Major, to 315 Squadron, stationed at Twente Air Base, as Operations Officer. He fulfilled this position until April 2000.

In the course of this assignment, he was deployed on two occasions, first as Operations Officer during Operation DELIBERATE GUARD, and subsequently as Head of Operations of the NL-BE Deployed Air Task Force in Amendola, Italy, in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE.

From April 2000 until mid-2001, he gained his first staff experience as part of the Fighter Aircraft Operations Division of the then Tactical Air Force Staff. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel and became commander of 315 Squadron at Twente Air Base. During that period, the squadron took part in operations over Afghanistan, operating from Manas Air Base, receiving a successful NATO op evaluation in the process. At this time, he was also faced with carrying out activities connected to deactivation of the squadron and it was those activities, the interaction with the support squadrons and staff among them, combined with his earlier staff experiences that helped him realize that there is more to life than being a fighter pilot and leading the operational process.

He subsequently took up an offer to broaden his horizon by attending, with great enthusiasm, a course at the Air War College (AWC AY05) in the United States. After completing AWC AY05, in August 2005, he was assigned to the Netherlands Defence Staff as Head of the Fighter Aircraft Requirements Section of the Directorate of Operational Policy and Plans, where he contributed to a number of operational improvements to the F-16 and the F-16 replacement aircraft and became acquainted with the dynamics of the Ministry of Defence's Central Staff.

Following a tour as Military Assistant (MA) to the DCOM Air at ISAF HQ in Afghanistan in 2007, he was assigned to the Integral Plans Branch of the Defence staff in October 2007 in the rank of Colonel; initially as Head of Project Planning and later becoming Head of Planning Integration. In April 2010, he was appointed as Commanding Officer of Leeuwarden Air Base.

On 24 August 2012, Dennis Luyt was appointed Director of Operations of the Royal Netherlands Air Force, with concurrent promotion to the rank of Air Commodore.

Following this appointment he was made Director of the Operational Readiness Directorate of the Defence Staff at the Ministry of Defence in The Hague as of June 2014. In this position he was the principal advisor to the NLD CHOD on allocation subjects and planning of readiness training of the armed forces and supporting services. For this appointment he was promoted to Major General.