



NATO TIGER MEET NTM 2011

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50th Anniversary

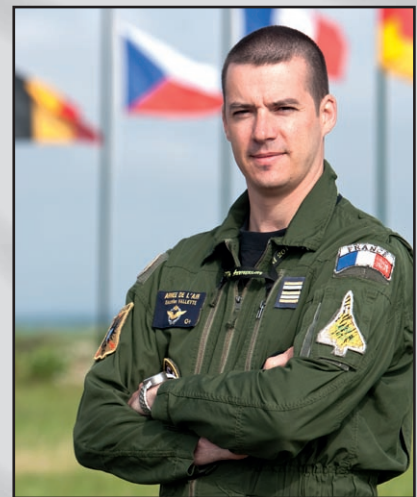
THE WORD OF THE DAY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL SÉBASTIEN VALLETTE,
COMMANDER OF THE 1/12 SQUADRON "CAMBRÉSIS".

It is with great pride that I address you for this last "word of the day" of the NATO Tiger Meet 2011. The whole personnel from the "Cambrésis" fighter squadron, which I am in command of, can really be satisfied with the work they have achieved over these last few weeks.

The exercise we were assigned to organize was carried out in ideal conditions. We were able to come up to all the participants' expectations. The operational objectives have been reached and we gained a lot from the missions completed.

Besides, I would like to thank the staff of Cambrai airbase, as well as all those who played a part in the success of this exercise, which was exceptional for different reasons. Indeed, it corresponded to the last-ditch stand of the Tigers in the sky of Cambrai and it marked the 50th anniversary of the NATO Tiger Association. For fifty years, the Tigers community has been gathering every year for the most important joint and combined air exercise in Europe. For fifty years, the Tiger Spirit has been perpetuating around values like fraternity, bravery and respect. Once a Tiger, always a Tiger!



ON THE FRONT COVER VERY SPECIAL FORCES

For the first time in the Tiger Meet history, a unit of the Special Forces has been integrated to the exercise. Indeed, elements from the 1st Marines paratrooper regiment (1st RPIMA) in Bayonne operate a hundred kilometers away from Cambrai, in areas situated in the Artois. Every day, these specialists undertake various missions of Close Air Support (CAS). For this task they use high-tech material: Vector goggles allowing the extraction of GPS coordinates, multi-emission radios are used in dialogs with the pilots... Master Sergeant L., a commando of the 1st RPIMA explains: "On the field, we



communicate with aircraft, indicating them the threats they have to deal with. We guide them towards the targets. We are somehow the eyes of the pilots on the ground." He adds "The Tiger Meet also allows us to attend the planning of the air operations, a phase during which we learn a lot."

Besides, these members of the Special Forces bring their expertise in the scenarios of search and rescue, especially in case of a simulation of a pilot's ejection in a hostile territory.



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THE WORD OF THE EXPERT

TIGER OPS, OPERATIONAL HEART OF THE NTM 2011

Tiger Ops is the hub of the NTM air activity. It gathers all the specialists needed for the planning and leading of the air operations. The "taskers" are specialists in mission planning; they work together with the operation support schedulers or the air traffic controllers. They are commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Daroux, the operational director of the exercise. *"I am in charge of the overall air activity: from the conception of missions to the management of the air space. We reach about one hundred take-offs a day, which can be compared to a large-scale air operation."*

From the air combat to the ground attack, the whole range of air combat missions is experienced. The lieutenant colonel adds: *"The very high number of air vectors and the variety of the missions provide a very interesting training*



context. We fulfill all the requested skills of a major exercise like "Flag". In addition to the aircraft deployed in Cambrai, we can also find GBAD devices, electromagnetic jamming systems, as well as means of live feedback."

"This allows us to study each operation

in minute detail. Thanks to three giant screens and the use of Liaison 16, we can supervise the air situation in real time. We are able to compare the missions planned with the ones actually carried out. Everybody learns a lot from the results!"

IN THE TIGER'S EYE



End of the exercise. The NATO Tiger salutes Cambrai's audience for the last time.

THE NUMBER OF THE DAY

8

it is the number of trophies that will be awarded on Thursday, May 18th during the Tiger Meet closing party.



BONUS

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LES NOUVELLES THE NEWS