



NATO TIGER MEET NTM 2011

TIGER NEWS N°1
MAY 10TH 2011

50th Anniversary

THE WORD OF THE DAY THE AIR BASE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Cambrai Airbase is welcoming Nato Tiger Meet 2011 with a tremendous pride. Not only does it coincide

with the eagerly awaited 50th anniversary, but it also stresses on the climax of the airbase which closes its gates at the dawn of the year 2012.

This major well-known exercise aims at training the squadrons - members states of Nato and their partners also - performing together complex missions which require a sound knowledge of tactical skills. Working together and getting to know each other will be the leitmotiv of these two coming weeks.

After months of preparation and dedication from the airbase personnel and the whole of the French Air Force, here we are! This first day is an extremely busy and hectic one from a logistic point of view, welcoming almost 900 people coming from all over Europe by air or on the road.

We are eager today to eventually get at the very heart of the matter. I also wish a warm welcome to all the participants as well as a great Tiger Meet 2011!

ON THE FRONT COVER A CEREMONY WITH FLYING COLOURS!

Tiger, Tiger, Tiger! Those were the words shouted by Colonel Valette, Commander of the 1/12 Squadron "Cambresis" on the Cambrai airbase Tarmac, opening the Nato Tiger Meet 2011. In response to him, the roaring of the aviators belonging to the Tigers community underlie the solemnity of the moment.

After months of preparation, the annual exercise gathering the Combat squadrons of the Atlantic Alliance and their partners whose emblem is a tiger, is officially open. Today's programme for the ceremony includes fighter aircraft painted with the colours of the tigers as a background, and the hauling up of the 17 participating nations

plus the Nato flags. The 211th tactical Czech Air Force having won the "Silver Tiger" last year in Holland is challenging its prestigious trophée as the tradition goes. The "Bronze Tiger" has been airborne on a Piper bearing the tracks of the Niergnies aero club in order to be given to the commander of the host 1/12 squadron.



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THE WORD OF THE EXPERT

THE 1/12 SQUADRON'S PRINT



Photo: Katsuhiko Tokumura

Nato Tiger Meet 2011 is a blend of exceptional ingredients which makes it a vintage of its best. All the celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of the exercise aside, the hosting 1/12 Squadron, being the last of the three founding members of the Tiger Meet, is still on but will be closed in Summer 2012. This is what gives this season its particular flavour and its large scale, resting on the minds of Colonel Valette's personnel for the two coming weeks.

"Cambresis"s main mission is to ensure Air Defense and more specifically, to be the "guardians" of the sky over the French territory.

On a deployment, the squadron masters the third dimension of the

field of operations by performing an offensive and defensive protection as well as the close air support. Fighter pilots of the "Cambresis" left their Tiger tracks on the history of the Air Force by carrying out their missions in Chad for the Mantra Operation, in Epervier, in Qatar for the Meteil Operation, In Yugoslavia, in Kosovo and in Irak.

Besides, the squadron has been protecting the sky for the third time over the Baltic Countries since April, 28th 2011, under the Nato mandate. The 1/12 squadron and the 2/5 fighter squadron "Ile de France" have been taking turns for five months to deploy four Mirage 2000-C on Siaulai airbase, in Lithuania. In addition to that Three Mrage 2000 are actually depmoyed in Chad for the Epervier operation.

Even though the squadron will soon close its gates, it has been fulfilled with the traditions shared with the "Tigers" community for a quarter of a century, and this is what makes the strength of the Nato Tiger Meet 2011.

THE NUMBER OF THE DAY

62

62 is the number of aircraft (fighters, transport aircraft and helicopters) stationed on the air base for the exercise.

IN THE TIGER'S EYE



A glimpse at Tent City: a rough camping specially organised for a swiss aviator, fond of tramping. A sign says: "Merlo's séparée", a very private joke (in English in the text)

AGENDA

10 MAY
VISIT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
OF THE FRENCH AIR FORCE

11 MAY
FIRST SPOTTER DAY

16 MAY
CEREMONY
OF THE 50TH TIGER MEET



BONUS

Please find the official facebook page of the French Air Force by scanning this flashcode