

Biography



Major General D.J. (Denny) Traas MSc

Commander Deployable Air Command and Control Centre

As Commander of the Deployable Air Command and Control Centre (DACCC), Major General Traas is responsible for NATO's high-readiness deployable Air Surveillance and Control capability, Deployable Air Operations Centre, and the training of Air Command and Control personnel for the Alliance. In addition, immediately following Russia's Ukraine invasion, he serves as Commander Allied Air Command's personal representative in the position of Deputy Commander Air to the Joint Task Force-Naples Commander.

Major General Traas started his career in 1986 in the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps where he served mostly in a UK/NL Mountain and Arctic Warfare unit. In 1991 he joined the Royal Netherlands Air Force to become a fighter-pilot. After his initial training he fulfilled various jobs in operational squadrons and deployed frequently to participate in Air operations above former Yugoslavia. In addition, he held different staff positions, mainly in the Plans and Policy domain. Major General Traas commanded at the squadron- and wing-level and led an Air Task Force (F-16) in Afghanistan. He was also Deputy Chief Regional Air Operations Coordination Centre South in Afghanistan.

As Chief of the Air Operations Branch in the Plans Directorate (MOD), Major General Traas had a leading role in many international and interdepartmental projects, such as replacement of the F-16, procurement Multi Role Tanker Transport capability and the Integration of Belgium-Luxembourg-Netherlands' national Air Defense. In his capacity of Director Weapon systems and Logistics (Defense Materiel Organization), Major General Traas was closely involved in the procurement and sustainment of main weapon systems, weapons, munitions and personal equipment for the Armed Forces. Prior to his current position he was Director Operations for the Royal Netherlands Air Force.

Major General Traas is a qualified Weapons Instructor, attended Higher- and Top Defense College and has a Master in Political Science.

EDUCATION (year concluded)¹

- 1986 Initial Training Marines (*Best Man award*), Van Ghent barracks, Rotterdam
- 1988 Military Paratrooper, Engelbrecht van Nassau barracks, Roosendaal
- 1989 Mountain & Arctic Warfare training, Scotland, Norway
- 1993 Fighter-pilot training, Netherlands, United States
- 2000 Dutch Weapons Instructor Course (Academic award), Leeuwarden Airbase
- 2006 Higher Defence College, Netherlands Defense Academy, Rijswijk
- 2012 Master Political Science, Leiden University
- 2017 Top Defense College, Netherlands Defense Academy, Rijswijk
- 2019 Session Européenne des Responsables d'Armement, L'Institut des Hautes Etudes des Defenses Nationale, Paris, France
- 2022 Combined Forces Air Component Commander Course, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, United States

ASSIGNMENTS (promotions)

- 1986 - 1991 Several assignments, Royal Navy / Marine Corps
- 1993 - 2000 Several assignments, 323 Fighter Squadron (F-16), Leeuwarden Airbase
- 2000 - 2001 Fighter Operations Branch, Tactical Air Command, RNLAF HQ
- 2001 - 2002 Instructor Fighter Weapons Instructor Training, Leeuwarden Airbase
- 2002 - 2004 1st Flightcommander, 322 Fighter Squadron (F-16), Leeuwarden Airbase (Major)
- 2004 - 2005 Policy and Plans Division, RNLAF HQ
- 2006 - 2008 Commander 322 Fighter Squadron (F-16), Leeuwarden Airbase (Lieutenant-colonel)
- 2008 - 2011 Deputy Base Commander / Ops Group Commander, Leeuwarden Airbase
- 2011 - 2013 Personal staff-officer Deputy Director Operational Policy and Requirements, staff Chief of Defense
- 2013 - 2015 Chief Air Operations Branch, Plans Directorate, staff Chief of Defense (Colonel)
- 2015 - 2017 Commander Leeuwarden Airbase
- 2017 - 2019 Director Weapon systems and Logistics, Defense Materiel Organization (Air Commodore)
- 2019 - 2022 Director Operations and security coordinator, Royal Netherlands Air Force
- 2022 - Present Commander Deployable Air Command and Control Centre, Poggio Renatico Airbase, Italy (Major General)
- 2022 - Present Deputy Commander Air, Joint Force Command Naples, Italy

¹ Only the most relevant courses and training

DEPLOYMENTS

Jul 1987 - Jan 1988 Multinational Force & Observers, Sharm-al-Sheik, Egypt

Jun 1995 - Jun 1999 Multiple Air Operations Former Yugoslavia, Villafranca and Amendola Airbases, Italy

Jan 2007 - May 2007 ISAF, Deputy Chief Regional Air Operations Coordination Centre, Kandahar, Afghanistan

Sep 2012 - Jan 2013 ISAF, Commander Air Task Force 21 (F-16), Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan

(updated: July 2022)