



# EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND



# AIR-TO-AIR REFUELLING



# EATC, A MAJOR PLAYER IN AIR-TO-AIR REFUELLING

During operations, a tanker from one nation may be required to refuel an aircraft from another nation. Thus air-to-air refuelling (AAR) is pooling and sharing par excellence! This has always been one of the main pillars of air mobility for EATC.

With the introduction of the new generation tanker fleet, all EATC member nations either own national AAR capabilities or are multinational partners of AAR capabilities.

EATC cooperates closely with the nations through an integrated, smart and innovative process. This growing commitment goes hand in hand with EATC's level of ambition to consolidate the operational needs with the functional requirements.

EATC also liaises with multinational partner organisations, such as EDA, JAPCC or MCCE. The concerted common objectives in the AAR domain increase consistently the level of interoperability.

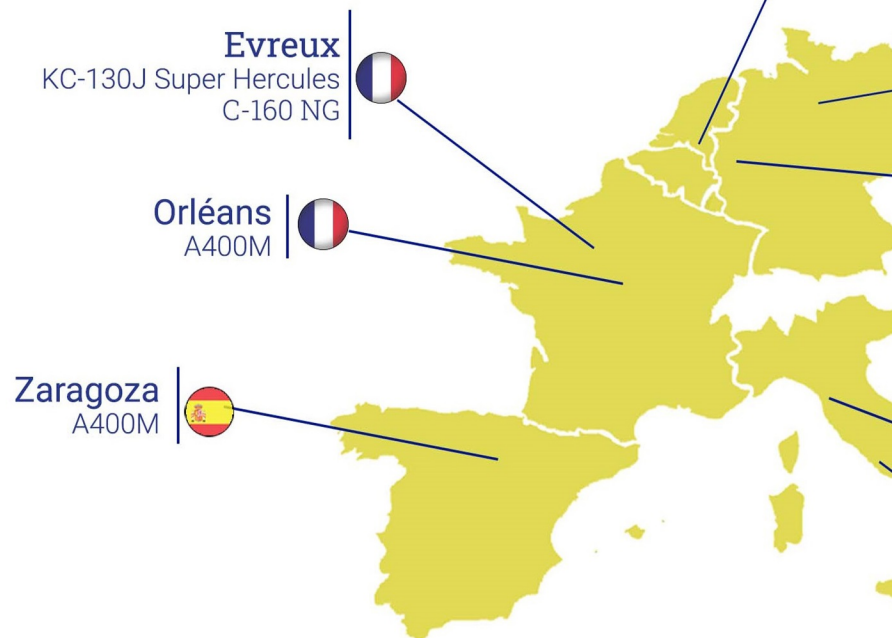


## THE AAR PORTFOLIO

The large and diverse EATC portfolio offers AAR tankers equipped with boom and basket refuelling systems. These are capable of providing service to almost all NATO and EU fighters, transport aircraft and helicopters, as soon as bilaterally certified. Whereas our A400M and KC-130J can refuel probe-equipped receivers such as the Eurofighter, Mirage and Tornado, the KC-767A is available for receptacle-equipped aircraft such as the F-16 and the F-35. The most flexible asset however is the new A330 MRTT, equipped with both AAR systems and offering a huge capacity of some 109.000 tons of fuel (depending on the mission profile).

Although assets as the Dutch KDC-10 and French C-160 NG will be decommissioned, the number of tankers under EATC's authority will increase in the coming years when for instance the A400M, KC-130J and A330 MRTT reach full AAR capability.

Thus, as of 2025, the number of AAR missions will increase significantly and EATC will be confirmed as a major force provider in Europe, with large operational options and reinforced operational effectiveness.



(\* ) Decommissioned 01 Nov 2021

(\*\* ) Multinational A330 MRTT unit:



# EATC, THE AAR CENTRE OF EXPERTISE



EATC is recognised as an AAR centre of expertise drawing on the expertise from experts throughout EATC's structure.

The operational experts plan AAR missions from an early stage and guarantee successful joint military air operations. They are in close contact with the "National AAR Coordination Centre" (NAARCC). The NAARCC are single national point of contacts, gathering the AAR expertise from a tanker and a receiver point of view.

The experts from the functional division are engaged in enhancing interoperability and in standardising AAR related tactics, techniques and procedures in cooperation with the member nations.

The last-in-date project is the operations manual "Trail missions" handbook, which aims to harmonise the planning, tasking and execution of trail mission. They also run the sole European exercise for tanker aircraft, the European Air-to-air Refuelling Training (EART), used as well as a test-bed to refine common procedures.

 **Eindhoven**  
KDC-10 \*  
A330 MRTT - MMU \*\* 

 **Wunstorf**  
A400M

 **Köln-Wahn**  
A330 MRTT - MMU \*\* 

 **Pisa**  
KC-130J Super Hercules

 **Pratica di Mare**  
KC-767A

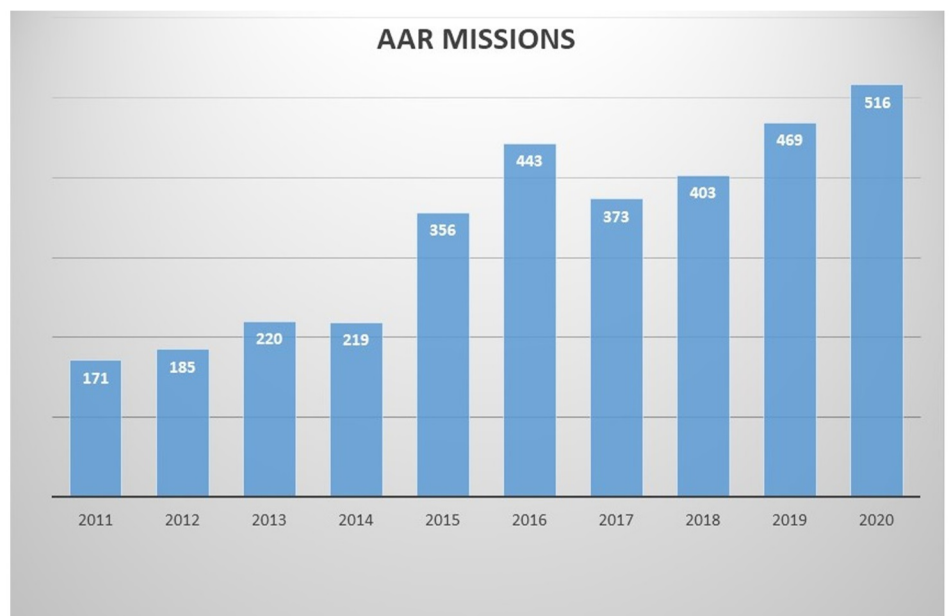


For more information on AAR you can visit us on [www.eatc-mil.com](http://www.eatc-mil.com) or follow us on Twitter at @EATC\_

## AAR figures

2010 - 2020: nearly **3.500 AAR missions**

2020: EATC commanded **27 AAR assets**  
and executed **516 missions**



# THE EUROPEAN AIR REFUELLING TRAINING

In order to enhance interoperability, EATC offers a unique multinational AAR exercise, the European Air Refuelling Training (EART). The aim is to offer realistic scenarios to train tanker crews, planners, taskers and engineers in planning and executing missions in a multinational framework. This is why EATC runs EART in cooperation with major European fighters exercises, such as the Spanish exercise Ocean Sky or the Dutch exercise Frisian Flag.

EART is an embedded rendez-vous for the EATC member nations and partners.

EART was initially designed for strategic tankers like the A310, A330 MRTT, KC767 or KDC10. Today we manage additional non-strategic tankers like the A400M or the KC130J, able to perform AAR missions in support of fixed or rotary wings. In order to also foster interoperability in this area, EATC just recently started to investigate new training opportunities.

a unique opportunity to train crews in planning & executing missions within a multinational framework

a successful example of pooling & sharing military air capabilities

an effective multinational AAR training



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Air Mobility  
Together we go beyond