

European Air Refuelling Training 2018



The fifth European Air Refuelling Training - EART 2018 - is conducted from 08 to 20 April 2018. It is led by EATC at Eindhoven Air Base and hosted by the Netherlands. EART 2018 is run in combination with the multinational Frisian Flag (FF) fighter exercise that operates from Leeuwarden Air base in the Netherlands.

Germany, the Netherlands, France and for the first time, a non EATC member nation, the United States, participate in EART 2018. The exercise director is one of EATC's highly professional air-to-air refuelling experts, Colonel Andrea Massucci.

EART 2018 puts a premium on "tanker cell formation" operations and on "tanker-to-tanker" rendez-vous procedures. The 2018 edition also introduces the "advanced certification level" for crews.



Participating Nations



Germany

A310 MRTT



the
Netherlands

KDC-10



France

C-135



USA

KC-135R



EART

The EART concept was introduced in 2014 following one of EDA's initiatives. EART is a dedicated AAR focused multinational training for air and maintenance crews to become familiar with scenarios they are not regularly exposed to and to maintain proficiency. Run concurrently with a fighter exercise, it is a unique opportunity for the participating nations to train their air crews in planning and executing missions within a complex and realistic framework.

Thanks to EATC's continuous efforts, crews increase their know-how in complex multinational scenarios, enhance their knowledge of multinational tanker aircraft and exchange information and procedures. EART has become an embedded rendez-vous for EATC member nations and their partners.





Background



The lessons identified from Unified Protector over Libya in 2011 showed that for a smooth multinational operation, nations need to train together in advance. AAR was recognized in 2012 as a capability shortfall in Europe and EDA developed a global AAR approach. EART is vested in one of EDA's three complementary work-strands aiming to optimise existing capabilities.

EATC runs yearly the EART training applying the lessons learned from operations such as Lybia. For example, in the 2018 edition, the focus is on the use of a "tanker cell formation" in a congested airspace as well as on the "tanker-to-tanker" rendez-vous procedures.

Thanks to multinational trainings and increased standardisation, effectiveness and interoperability of forces is enhanced.



Whereas objectives focused in the past on a yearly cross "combat ready" training for tankers and fighters, EART introduced in 2017 a certification process for participants. In future, EATC plans to run EART in larger fighter exercises across Europe.



Frisian Flag 2018

participants



From 9 April to 20 April 2018, Leeuwarden airbase hosts again one of the largest international fighter exercises: Frisian Flag 2018. For two weeks, fighter aircraft from nine countries exercise the execution of offensive and defensive missions. Multinational cooperation is at the core of the exercise, which also implies cooperation between the tactical air commands and air control agencies. Conducting multinational fighter exercises is necessary to increase sustainment of effective execution of the nations' air defense operations and missions.

The MCCE AAR cell deploys an AAR expert to Leeuwarden to act as a liaison between FF and EART for AAR tasking.



EART is

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

