



## **Paul Desair**

**Brigadier General  
Belgium Air Force**

**Deputy Commander  
European Air Transport Command**

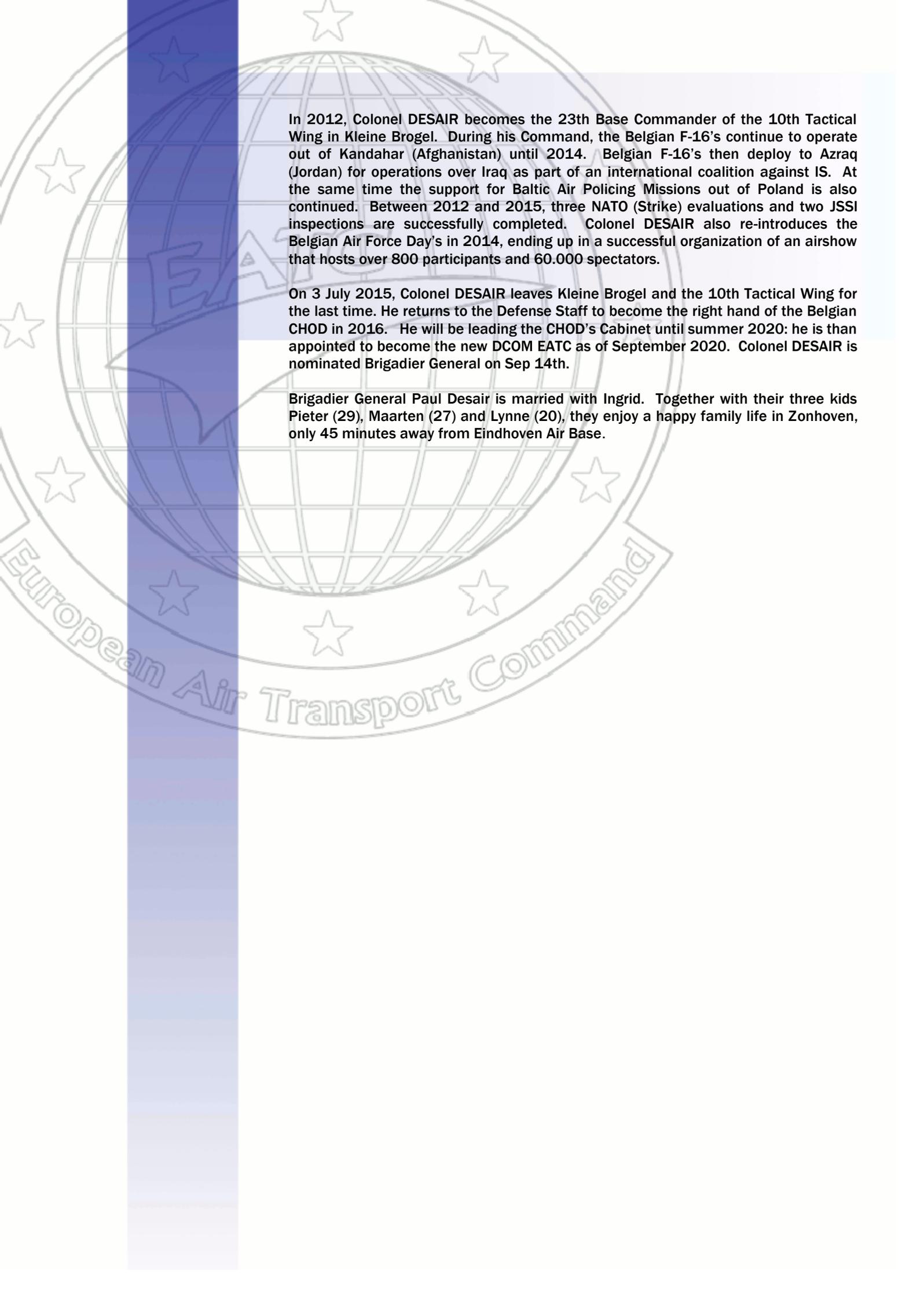
Brigadier General Paul DESAIR was born in Hasselt (Belgium) on 13 September 1964. He starts his military career in 1982 as a senior cadet and joins the 123<sup>rd</sup> promotion at the Royal Military Academy in Brussels one year later. In 1988, he finishes pilot training and starts his conversion on F-16. He joins 23 Squadron in the 10<sup>th</sup> tactical Wing based at Kleine Brogel, where he continues his operational training. Between 1989 and 1994, he participates in different flying courses, tactical programs and numerous national and international exercises. After an extra year in Staff College (1994-1995), he returns to the squadron as Operations Officer (2<sup>nd</sup> in command). In 1996, Senior Captain Paul DESAIR is commanding the first operational deployment of Belgian F-16's out of Villafranca (Italy) in support of Operation 'Decisive Endeavour' with missions over the Balkans.

From 1997 to 2000, he returns to the Belgian Air Force Operational Headquarters in Brussels. Besides his efforts in support of the Benelux co-operation (DATF-Deployable Air Task Force), he is also in charge of the planning for Belgian Air Force assets in support of the Immediate and Rapid Reaction Forces to NATO. Promoted Major, he takes up responsibility for the planning, conduct and follow up of Belgian F-16 operations and C-130 support missions during Operation 'Allied Force' over Kosovo. In 2000, Major DESAIR returns to the Royal Higher Institute for Defense in Brussels and successfully completes the higher staff course.

From 2001 until 2002 Major DESAIR returns to Kleine Brogel as operations Officers at wing level and successfully guides the 10<sup>th</sup> Tactical Wing through a number of important NATO evaluations and inspections. Thereafter he becomes Squadron Commander of 31 Squadron that merged with 23 Squadron. The 'old devil' becomes a 'young tiger' and takes away the prestigious 'Silver Tiger' during his first Tiger Meet in Cambrai (2003). When the Baltic States become part of NATO, he is one of the first commanders to lead and command his squadron during deployments at Siaulai (Lithuania) in support of the NATO Baltic Air Policing Missions.

In 2004, he leaves the squadron to join the Defense Staff and become a 'Crisis Response Planner' (J5). Promoted Lieutenant Colonel, he is in charge of the joint planning for Belgian military assets in support of operations all over the world. He deploys Land Forces, F-16's and C-130's to Kabul in Afghanistan, UAV's to Kinshasa in Africa, Helicopters to Mostar in Bosnia Herzegovina, medical hospitals to Tibnin in Lebanon, etc...

In 2007, Lieutenant Colonel DESAIR returns to his Wing in Kleine Brogel to become senior pilot in command of the Flying Group operations. Two years later, back at the level of the Belgian Air Component Headquarters (Brussels) in 2009, he becomes Colonel and takes up responsibility as Chief Air Operations (A3). Whilst being fully involved in the restructuring of the Belgian Defense, Colonel DESAIR is now in charge for the readiness of all Belgian air assets and the programming, planning and follow up of the Belgian air operations including F-16's, UAV B-Hunters, C-130's, SAR and A-109 helicopters, Air traffic control assets, etc.... Besides the employment of F-16's in Afghanistan and the C-130 operations in support of MONUSCO in Central Africa, he is also responsible for the employment of Belgian F-16s out of Araxos (Greece) in support of the NATO operation 'Unified Protector' with missions over Libya.



In 2012, Colonel DESAIR becomes the 23th Base Commander of the 10th Tactical Wing in Kleine Brogel. During his Command, the Belgian F-16's continue to operate out of Kandahar (Afghanistan) until 2014. Belgian F-16's then deploy to Azraq (Jordan) for operations over Iraq as part of an international coalition against IS. At the same time the support for Baltic Air Policing Missions out of Poland is also continued. Between 2012 and 2015, three NATO (Strike) evaluations and two JSSI inspections are successfully completed. Colonel DESAIR also re-introduces the Belgian Air Force Day's in 2014, ending up in a successful organization of an airshow that hosts over 800 participants and 60.000 spectators.

On 3 July 2015, Colonel DESAIR leaves Kleine Brogel and the 10th Tactical Wing for the last time. He returns to the Defense Staff to become the right hand of the Belgian CHOD in 2016. He will be leading the CHOD's Cabinet until summer 2020: he is then appointed to become the new DCOM EATC as of September 2020. Colonel DESAIR is nominated Brigadier General on Sep 14th.

Brigadier General Paul Desair is married with Ingrid. Together with their three kids Pieter (29), Maarten (27) and Lynne (20), they enjoy a happy family life in Zonhoven, only 45 minutes away from Eindhoven Air Base.