



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 in Lier. One year later, he joins the 123rd promotion at the Royal Military Academy in Brussels. In 1988, he finishes pilot training and starts his conversion on F-16. He joins 23 Squadron in the 10th Tactical Wing at Kleine-Brogel Air Base, 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. In 1996, Senior Captain P. DESAIR is commanding the first operational deployment of Belgian F-16's out of Villafranca (Italy) in support of Operation 'Decisive Endeavour', executing missions over the Balkans.

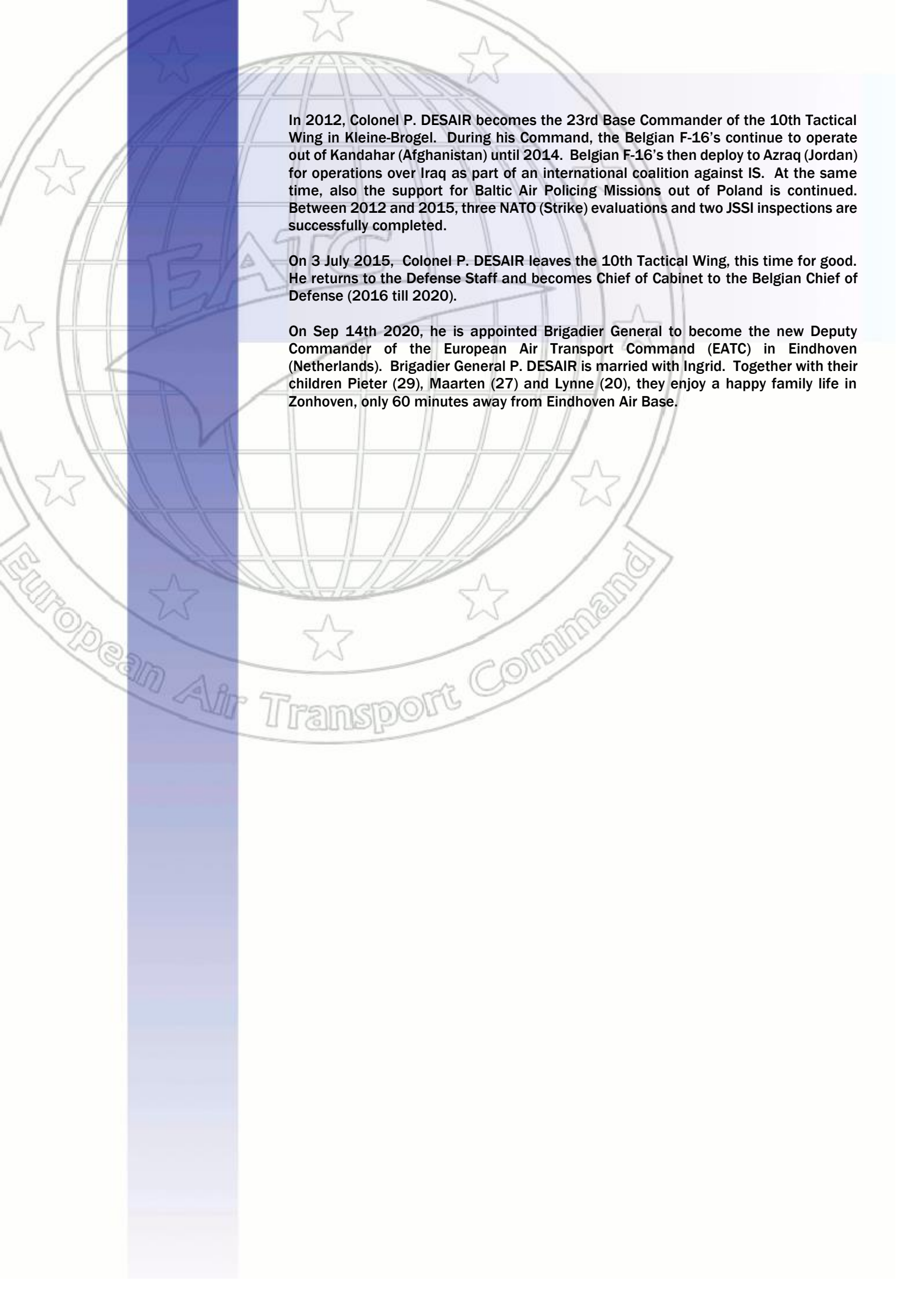
From 1997 till 2000, he returns to the Belgian Air Force headquarters in Brussels. Besides his work in support of the Benelux co-operation (DATF-Deployable Air Task Force), he is responsible for the planning of Belgian Air Force assets in support of the Immediate and Rapid Reaction Forces to NATO. Promoted 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' in Kosovo. In 2000, Major P. DESAIR returns to the Royal Higher Institute for Defense in Brussels and successfully completes the higher staff course.

In 2001 he returns to Kleine-Brogel as Operations Officer in the Flying Group. One year later he becomes Squadron Commander of 31 Squadron (2002 till 2004). When the Baltic States become member of NATO, he is one of the first to command his squadron during deployments at Siaulai (Lithuania) in support of the NATO Baltic Air Policing Missions.

In 2004, Major P. DESAIR becomes 'Crisis Response Planner' (J5) at Joint Staff level. Promoted Lieutenant Colonel, he is in charge of planning Belgian military assets in support of operations worldwide. He deploys protection teams, F-16's and C-130's to Kabul in Afghanistan, UAV's to Kinshasa in Africa, A-109 helicopters to Mostar in Bosnia Herzegovina, mobile surgical hospitals and EOD teams to Lebanon, etc...

In 2007, Lieutenant Colonel P. DESAIR returns to Kleine-Brogel to command the Flying Group. While having detachments deployed in Kandahar for operations over Afghanistan, he successfully leads the 10th Tactical Wing through a number of important NATO evaluations and inspections.

Back in the Belgian Air Component headquarters 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 Staff, Colonel P. DESAIR is now in charge for the readiness of the Belgian air assets. He takes responsibility for the programming, planning and follow up of all Belgian air operations including Combat Aircraft-, Transport-, Helicopter-, UAV- and Air Traffic Control operations. Besides the employment of F-16's in Afghanistan and the C-130 operations in support of MONUSCO in Central Africa, he also directs the employment of Belgian F-16's out of Araxos (Greece) in support of the NATO operation 'Unified Protector' with missions over Libya.



In 2012, Colonel P. DESAIR becomes the 23rd 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, also the support for Baltic Air Policing Missions out of Poland is continued. Between 2012 and 2015, three NATO (Strike) evaluations and two JSSI inspections are successfully completed.

On 3 July 2015, Colonel P. DESAIR leaves the 10th Tactical Wing, this time for good. He returns to the Defense Staff and becomes Chief of Cabinet to the Belgian Chief of Defense (2016 till 2020).

On Sep 14th 2020, he is appointed Brigadier General to become the new Deputy Commander of the European Air Transport Command (EATC) in Eindhoven (Netherlands). Brigadier General P. DESAIR is married with Ingrid. Together with their children Pieter (29), Maarten (27) and Lynne (20), they enjoy a happy family life in Zonhoven, only 60 minutes away from Eindhoven Air Base.