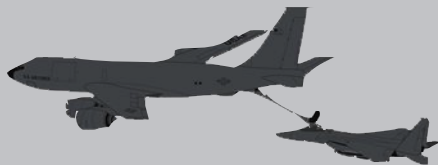




Air-to-Air Refuelling



EATC is a multinational command established on 1st September 2010. It is located at Eindhoven air base in the Netherlands and integrates a staff of more than 200 people coming from the 7 member nations.

Today EATC is a unique organisation within Europe for military air transport (AT), air-to-air refuelling (AAR) and aeromedical evacuation (AE).

Members:

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Spain.

Command:

The command of the EATC rotates between France and Germany. The current commander is German Major General (OF-7) Christian Badia. The deputy commander and chief of staff is French Brigadier General (OF-6) Pascal Chiffolleau.

EATC Structure:

The command group is supported by 3 divisions: the operational division, the functional division and the policy & support division.

Missions:

- Optimize the employment of AT assets
- Command & control transferred AT assets
- Harmonize rules & regulations for future common operations (interoperability)

Key events:

September 2010	Inauguration of EATC
May 2011	Initial Operational Capability
November 2012	Luxembourg joins the EATC
July 2014	Full Operational Capability
July 2014	Spain joins the EATC
December 2014	Italy joins the EATC

New Readers,



EATC emphasizes today on three essential focal points : military air transport, air-to-air refuelling and aeromedical evacuation. We are a facilitator to share values, to enhance interoperability and to harmonize procedures. This makes EATC a unique organisation faced as the showcase of successfully pooling and sharing within Europe.

Air-to-air refuelling has been recognized in Europe as an important quantitative and qualitative capability shortfall. This shortfall is addressed in both EU "pooling and sharing" and NATO's "smart defense" initiatives. Today only seven EU member nations own air-to-air refuelling assets. Five of them are also EATC members.

In cooperation with our member nations and their air-to-air refuelling entities, EATC has built up in the past years experience in air-to-air refuelling related matters. We have developed into an effective centre of expertise and are considered today in Europe as a subject matter expert cooperating closely with other multinational organisations.

The number of air-to-air refuelling assets under EATC command will increase with the progressively introduction of the A400M and the respectively air refuelling kits for the German and French assets. Moreover EATC will foster synergies with the MRTT initiative, aiming at acquiring and operating a common European "multi-role transport tanker" capability : three out of the five nations launching the MRTT initiative are EATC members and the multinational MRTT fleet is foreseen to be co-located at Eindhoven airbase.

In addition to the Italian KC-767 assets and with the introduction of the new generation tanker fleet (A400M and A330 MRTT), the air-to-air refuelling domain is closely linked to EATC's core business: military air transport. Therefore we are using our current expertise to develop into a centerpiece on air-to-air refuelling related matters for EATC member nations. We will further refine our expertise and activities, embedding EATC as the enabler to increase existing capabilities and generating stronger relationship with national decision makers and partner organisations.

The future will bring us new challenges and we are looking forward to meeting them.

Major General Christian Badia,
Commander of the EATC



The EATC Air-to-Air Refuelling capabilities

A dedicated EATC AAR cell

was created in 2014 in order to take into account the AAR specific planning and tasking. This cell is the single point of contact for the national commands and the respective executing AAR entities. A close cooperation and coordination with the national AAR agencies has also been set up in parallel.

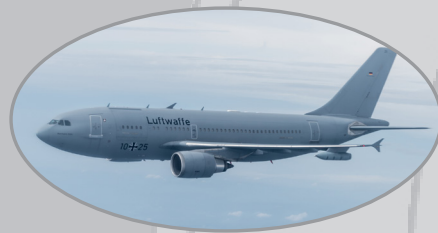
The dedicated cell is closely liaising with multinational partners. EATC is largely recognized as a subject matter expert. In this respect it leads for instance, on behalf of the European Defence Agency (EDA), the AAR operational employment working group. In order to meet the need in Europe and among NATO allies for a multinational AAR training, EATC runs on a yearly basis the "European Air Refuelling Training", a unique opportunity for air crews and engineers to train in a multinational environment. With EART, AAR is exercised as an integral element rather than as an enabler for other air assets.

EATC commands

currently **19** air-to-air refuelling assets from The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Italy and France :

STRATEGIC TANKERS

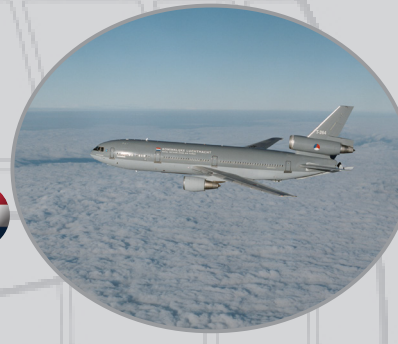
2 A310 MRTT
Germany 



4 KC-767A
Italy 



2 KDC-10
The Netherlands 



TACTICAL TANKERS

3 C-160 NG
France 



3 C-130J
Italy 



5 KC-130
Spain 



in 2015 **MORE THAN 350 AAR MISSIONS**

AIR-TO-AIR REFUELLING

is a major force multiplier : an AAR aircraft enables to extend the range of the receiving aircraft, to remain longer airborne and to increase the transported payload. An AAR aircraft may also, in addition to air refuelling role, transport personnel or cargo.

The two main refuelling systems are "probe-and-drogue" and the "boom".



The **PROBE-AND-DROGUE** system adapt easier to existing aircraft.



The **FLYING BOOM** system offers faster fuel transfer, but requires a dedicated operator station.



"The level of ambition for the coming years is to develop the EATC AAR cell into an AAR centre of expertise for EATC member nations and to enhance interoperability within the nations in this domain.

From an operational point of view, we will continue to optimize the tasking of our AAR strategic and tactical assets. The EART training remains essential and provides optimum AAR training opportunities for nations with the required support to the fighters. Nowadays EART is pooled with the Dutch Frisian Flag exercise and in the future it might be combined with larger exercises like "Tiger Meets".

As for the functional domain, EATC is involved in the introduction of new generation tankers as the A400M together with the required clearances to refuel assets, and will be involved with the MRTT initiative".

*Colonel Jurgen van der Biezen (AFNLD),
Head of the EATC Functional Division
and Deputy Exercise Director of EART 2016.*



European Air Refuelling Training (EART)

Initiated within EDA's AAR initiative, EATC runs a multinational AAR training, the European Air Refuelling Training (EART), at Eindhoven airbase. EART is the only AAR multinational training for air crews and engineers. It is organised on a yearly basis since 2014 and in combination with the Dutch Frisian Flag (FF) fighter exercise. Together EART and FF are demonstrations of successful multinational cooperations. EART is an embedded rendez-vous not only for the member nations but also for partners. In this respect the United States have announced their participation as an observer for the 2016 edition.

EATC strives to offer initial and advanced AAR "combat ready" qualifications, as well as the necessary academic support. The training offers a unique opportunity to train crews, planners, taskers and engineers in planning and executing missions within a multinational framework. The crews become familiar with scenarios they're not regularly exposed to. Moreover they are able to enhance knowledge of multinational tanker aircraft.



EATC AAR fleet 2017



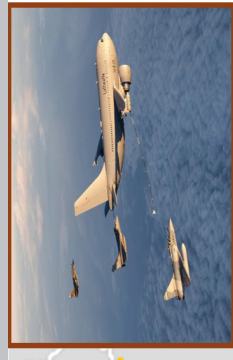
McDonnell Douglas KCDC-10



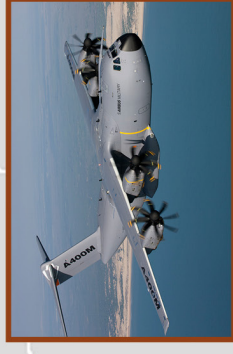
C-160NG Transall



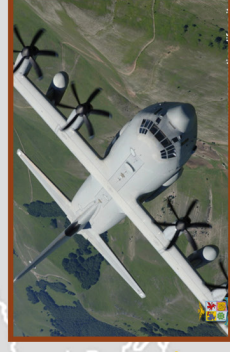
Airbus A400M



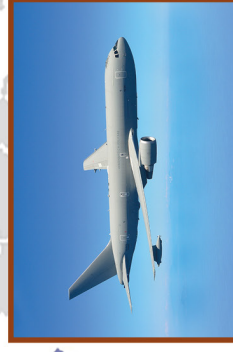
Airbus A310 MRTT



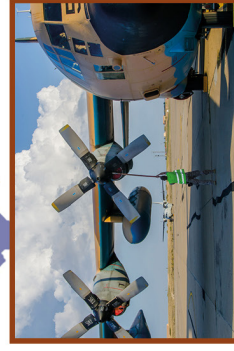
Airbus A400M



C-130J Hercules



Boeing KC-767A



KC-130 Hercules

