



European Air Refuelling Training

2017



The fourth European Air Refuelling Training (EART) is conducted at Eindhoven Air Base from 26 March to 7 April 2017. EART was introduced in 2014 following EDA's air-to-air refuelling (AAR) initiative. It is run by EATC and hosted by the Netherlands.



EART is organized on a yearly basis and is pooled with the Dutch Frisian Flag (FF) fighter exercise that operates from Leeuwarden Air Base.

EART 2017 Participants:



EART 2017 Mentors:



The aim of EART is to train tanker crews in air-to-air refuelling operations within a **REALISTIC AND MULTINATIONAL FRAMEWORK**. Merged with the Frisian Flag exercise, EART becomes a unique opportunity for **SPECIFIC TRAINING** for **CREWS, PLANNERS, TASKERS and ENGINEERS** in planning and executing missions in a complex COMAO (composite air operation). The crews increase their know-how in complex multinational scenarios not easy to recreate. Moreover, they are able to enhance knowledge of multinational tanker aircraft. EART fosters the exchange of information and procedures among tanker and fighter crews as well as enables and facilitates certification processes between tanker and receiver aircraft.



Through joint training exercises, like EART 2017, and increased standardization, effectiveness and interoperability of forces are enhanced.

EART has become an **EMBEDDED RENDEZ-VOUS** not only for the member nations, but also for partners, such as the United States Air Force.



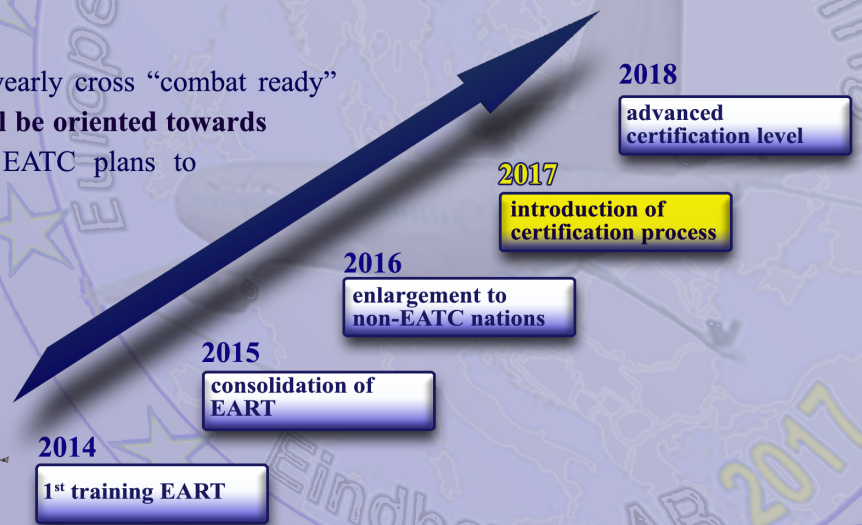
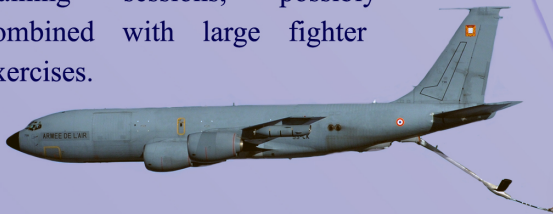
Background:

The lessons learned from Unified Protector over Libya in 2011 showed that **for a smooth multinational operation, nations need to train together in advance**. While the fighter community has trained to operate together for years, the same cannot be stated for air-to-air refuelling, without which a lot of fighter operations would not be possible. In this context AAR was recognized in 2012 as a capability shortfall in Europe.



To minimize this capability gap, EDA has implemented an AAR project team to deal with outcomes of three different institutions on AAR matters. One of those three pillars is represented by the Multi Role Transport Tankers/AAR Operational Employment Working Group (OEWG) - led by EATC. The OEWG's general objective is to harmonize and - where necessary - to develop procedures and related processes to employ existing and future multi-role platforms in their dual AAR and air transport role.

Whereas objectives focused in the past on a yearly cross "combat ready" training for tankers and fighters, **the future will be oriented towards the certification process for participants**. EATC plans to introduce, as of 2018, two yearly training sessions, possibly combined with large fighter exercises.



EART is:

a successful example of
POOLING and SHARING
military air capabilities

an **EFFECTIVE**
multinational
AAR training

a **unique** opportunity
to train crews
in **PLANNING & EXECUTING** missions
within a **MULTINATIONAL FRAMEWORK**



FRISIAN FLAG 2017

From 26 March to 07 April, Leeuwarden air base will host again one of the largest international fighter pilot exercises: Frisian Flag 2017.

For two weeks, fighter aircrafts from various countries will be exercising the execution of *offensive and defensive missions*. International cooperation is at the core of the exercise, which also implies cooperation between the tactical air commands and tactical air control agencies. Conducting such an exercise in an international spectrum is necessary in order to increase sustainment of effective execution of the nations' air defense operations and missions.

