



# NATO TIGER MEET

# NTM 2011

TIGER NEWS N°5  
16 MAY 2011

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## THE WORD OF THE DAY

### CEREMONY: EXTRACTS FROM THE ORDER OF THE DAY



"As a brotherhood highlighting the sharing of experiments, interoperability, solidarity and team spirit (...) the NATO Tiger Meet has gathered for a half century the fighter squadrons and helicopter squadrons which had as an emblem the "Tiger", formidable predator and excellent hunter." (...)

The motto of the exercise: "Hard to be Humble".

At a time when the NATO is involved in different conflicts around the world, and when the joint cooperation is essential, the NATO Tiger Meet is a particularly coherent exercise. The interest showed by the nations

present today – although they have to face a strong military involvement – is evidence of the important operational benefit of this exercise.

Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this unique air exercise strongly reminds us that will and men are at the heart of our daily involvements. Their professionalism - along with a solid comradeship - emerge as the base of edifice which must endure within the military structures of the Alliance.

Active or former members of this organization, you can be proud of the task you carry out within the famous "Club of Tigers"."

## ON THE FRONT COVER

### HALF A CENTURY OF TIGER MEET

On Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, Cambrai Air Force Base celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NATO Tiger Meet. The ceremony - chaired by General Hugues HENDEL, commander of the Air Forces in The French Air Force - gathered the delegations of each participating nation to this 2011 edition of the exercise, as well as the pilots who initiated this annual meeting.

This day was marked by the notion of memory and sharing, for all the members of the Tiger community.

On this special occasion, General HENDEL decided to disclose some news expected from everybody: the traditions of the SPA 162 wing of the 01.012 fighter squadron "Cambrésis" - which is going to close down in 2012 - will be transferred to the 01.007 fighter squadron "Provence" based in Saint-Dizier. He even underlined "These are highly important and prestigious traditions that the Air Force wants to keep".



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LES NOUVELLES  
TIGER NEWS





# THE WORD OF THE EXPERT

## THE CONTROL TOWER: AN EYE ON THE TIGERS



**F**riday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 p.m. The fighters of the NATO Tiger Meet finish their mission and land one by one on Cambrai Air Base. This never-ending flow is meticulously managed by the control tower. The latter over-

looks the whole platform and offers a magnificent panoramic view. In command, Master Sergeant Gregory Poulain, air traffic controller on Cambrai AFB is on watch throughout the 15 days of the NATO Tiger Meet. Permanently in touch with the chief of the approach who is located a few levels lower, he is in charge of all the ground procedures within the air training area.

To back him up, a "taxi controller" is responsible for the activity (vehicles and aircraft) on the parking lot and on the taxiway and an air-ground controller overlooks the activity on the take-off runway and the air area up to 10 kilometres away.

With around 100 "sorties" a day, the working pace of the Air Controllers of Cambrai is unusual. Master Sergeant Poulain explains: *"With the exercise, the activity has been highly increased overnight. We require 100 % of our staff every day, and we have quite disrupted our schedule"*.

Over the last 6 months, the airmen of the tower trained on simulators to be ready to face such a dense activity. The supervisor of the air traffic confesses: *"The Tiger Meet disrupts our working habits. But it is exceptional and very motivating in terms of training. We are going to take advantage of this amount of activity until the end of the exercise."*

## THE NUMBER OF THE DAY

# 333

The number of "sorties" achieved during the first week of the exercise, from Tuesday to Friday.

## IN THE TIGER'S EYE



The Portuguese tiger watches over his "Falcons", with the help of his runway manager.

## AGENDA

**MAY 17TH**  
SPOTTER DAY

**MAY 19TH**  
CLOSING CEREMONY

**MAY 20TH**  
PARTICIPANTS DEPARTURE



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# BONUS

# LES NOUVELLES THE NEWS