



NATO TIGER MEET NTM 2011

TIGER NEWS N°6
17 MAY 2011

50th Anniversary

THE WORD OF THE DAY

**COLONEL DONALD «DON» VERHEES,
SENIOR OFFICER OF THE NATO TIGER MEET**

Don, you are reckoned to be an essential figure of the Tiger Meet. What is the reason for that?

Firstly, I guess it is due to my age - 70 years old in one month. I started as a mere participant. At the time, I was a nav. in an American fighter squadron. Throughout the years, I have become an active member of the Tiger community, and I am now its "senior advisor".

How many Tiger Meets did you attend?

I have attended all the Tiger Meets since 1977. This represents 29 in total. I only missed 2 (in 1978 and 1990). The main reason why I keep coming to every single Tiger Meet is my great passion for this event and its people. I

am in the habit of saying that it keeps me young!

How do you consider the evolution of the Tiger Meet throughout history?

Our Air forces have kept developing, not only in the pace of the air activity but also in its volume. Of course, technology has also continued to progress. The realism and the complexity of scenarios have kept increasing.

What do you think about the welcome offered by Cambrai AFB?

The French have always achieved an outstanding level of quality, like every other member of the Tiger Association. I am very attached to France, and I live in Cannes.



ON THE FRONT COVER ESSENTIAL ICS!



Most of the time they work backstage. However, without the Information and Communication Systems (ICS) specialists, no air operation – and therefore no exercise as important as the Tiger Meet – would be possible.

At the Tiger Village, about 80 shelters called "Modular Shelter of Command Station" have been settled this way. Equipped with 180 computers, they are the working environment of the flying crews.

A free-access internal network also allows the 17 participating nations to exchange information. Major William Nantier, chief of the ICS part of the exercise explains that "These facilities are necessary for the achievement of the exercise. Our task consists in connecting the detection and control deploying center or the ground-based air defense squadron to the operation command. We also work on the setting of the Liaison 16". In total, six months of preparation and installation were needed. A mission to which the technicians from Cambrai AFB highly contributed.



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LES NOUVELLES
TIGER NEWS



THE WORD OF THE EXPERT

A TECHNICAL CORRESPONDANT

"**O** la, qué tal Ludivine!" NCO cadet Ludivine Tourdeau is living a Tiger Meet in Spanish! Her role? "Technical correspondent" for the Iberian detachment. A task this young specialist in foreign languages details us in a smile. "Each technical correspondent is appointed to a nation participating to the exercise. We help them with the expression of their daily requests, for example with the compulsory administrative formalities for the fuel supply of their aircraft." Backed by Master Sergeant Blanco, NCO cadet Tourdeau is in charge of the Spanish mechanics, i.e. around 30 people. "Our mission is to make their work on the airbase easier. Our global activity is directly coordinated with the



Maintenance Operational Center, a real hub in the support field." For Ludivine, availability and listening are the key words. "The activity is intense and the days very busy, but the relationship with the Spanish is great, which makes my job much simpler." Out of the context of the exercise, the young woman is a student on the AFB 721 of Rochefort. When it is time for NCO cadet Tourdeau to carry on her interpreter training in Strasbourg, she will long remember this first meeting with the Tiger community. "I am here on Cambrai AFB in support. I realize how lucky I am to be able to experience such an outstanding event, while I only enrolled in the French Air Force a few months ago!"

THE NUMBER OF THE DAY

2400

this is the number of meals served three times a day at the Tiger Mess

IN THE TIGER'S EYE



Pilots attend the briefing of their mission, planned for the following day. Tiger Spirit, from head to foot.

AGENDA

17 MAI
LAST SPOTTER DAY

19 MAI
CLOSING CEREMONY



BONUS

Please find the official facebook page of the French Air Force by scanning this flashcode

LES NOUVELLES THE NEWS