



## MAJOR GENERAL THIERRY DUPONT



Major-General Thierry DUPONT was born in Cologne, Germany, on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1966.

Passionate about aviation since his childhood, he joins the Air Cadets and performs his first solo flight with a glider at the age of 15.

Graduated from the Polytechnic Department of the Royal Military Academy in 1989, and after completing his training on Marchetti SF 260 and Alpha Jet, he is assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wing in Bierset, where he pilots the Mirage 5. In 1995, he completes an F-16 conversion and joins the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Wing. After completing the Advanced Command and Staff Course, he returns to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wing and takes part in Operation "Deliberate Guard" above ex-Yugoslavia.

In 1999, he attends the test pilot training course at the French Test Pilot School (Ecole du Personnel Navigant d'Essais et de Réception) in Istres, and in that capacity partakes in the development of the F-16 Mid Life Update (MLU) at Edwards Air Force Base (USA) until 2000. Then, he joins the Plans and Programs Division at the Air Force headquarters, where he continues to monitor the F 16 MLU program and remains involved in the evolution of other aircraft of the Air Force. In January 2002, he becomes head of the flying equipment training section. A few months later, he is assigned Commanding Officer of the No. 1 Squadron in Florennes, which transitions to F-16 MLU under his command.

In 2004, he attends the Superior Command and Staff Course at the "Collège de Défense" in Toronto (CAN) and obtains a parallel master degree in defence policy at the University of Montréal. As from 2005, he ensures capability relations with NATO as well as with the European Defence Agency as staff member of the Strategy Department of the Defence Headquarters. In 2007, he is assigned manager for the A400M Programme in the General Directorate of Material Resources.

In 2009, he returns to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Wing, where he holds the position of Commander of the Flying Group for three years. The highlight of this period is marked by his participation in Operation "Odyssey Dawn" in March 2011, as he coordinates the first attacks in Lybia from Ramstein (DEU). He then returns to the Staff Department of Strategy, where he is responsible for monitoring capacities until 2012, before being assigned to the Senior Staff Course 122 at the NATO Defence College in Rome.

On 18 October 2013, he becomes the 24<sup>th</sup> Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Wing. Under his command, the unit takes part in five missions: Operation Guardian Falcon (AFG), Operation Desert Falcon (IRQ), Baltic Air Policing and Enhanced Air Policing Mission (LTU) and homeland Operation Vigilant Guardian (BEL).

In July 2016, Major General DUPONT becomes the first Belgian Head of the Combined Air Operation Center in Uedem (DEU), where he is responsible for the integrated Air and Missile Defence System of Northern Europe and for the support of Operations led by "Joint Forces Air Command" in Ramstein.

As from May 2018, Major General Thierry DUPONT is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Training of the Belgian Defence.

Major General DUPONT graduated from the Combined Force Air Component Commander Course at Maxwell AFB, (USA).

He totals over 2600 flying hours on thirty different types of aircraft.

On 17 September 2020, Major General DUPONT becomes the 5<sup>th</sup> Air Component Commander and the 16<sup>th</sup> Belgian Air Chief.