



Ministry of Defence

Curriculum Vitae

Major General T.H.W. ten Haaf, Royal Netherlands Air Force

Commander NLD SOCOM.



Major General Theo ten Haaf joined the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf) in 1979 and earned his helicopter pilot wings in 1980. He flew several types of helicopters, including the Alouette III, Bo-105 and AH-64 Apache. He was a member and team captain of the RNLAf helicopter aerobatics team 'the Grasshoppers'. Besides his operational assignments at various RNLAf helicopter squadrons he also served as an instructor pilot in the Belgian Air Force, flying the SF-260M Marchetti, and as a liaison officer with the 4th NL Army Division and the 11th Air Mobile Brigade.


In 1994 he was deployed to Bosnia for the first time. In 1995 he attended the RNLAf Command and Staff College (HSV). On graduation, he was appointed Squadron Commander of 301 Squadron, the first RNLAf squadron to be equipped with the AH-64 Apache. This squadron was the nucleus and laid the foundation of current Apache operations of the RNLAf today.

Following his operational tours, Major General ten Haaf held a number of staff appointments, as a planner and as Chief Helicopter Operations at the RNLAf Air Staff. In the course of these assignments, he was deployed to Macedonia and to Albania during the Kosovo conflict. He was appointed Commander of Soesterberg Air Base from 2002 until 2005, before taking up the position of Head, Investments Plans Branch at the Directorate of Operational Policy, Requirements and Plans at the NLD Defence Staff. From October 2007 until mid-January 2008, MG Ten Haaf was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan where he commanded the 1 (NLD) Air Task Force.

As of January 24, 2008 he was appointed Commander of Gilze-Rijen Air Base. As of July 4, 2008, he was made Commander of the NLD Defence Helicopter Command.

With effect from August 2012 Major General ten Haaf was appointed Deputy Director at the Directorate of Operations at the Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence. In this position he was tasked with the planning, preparation, monitoring and national supervision of all national and international operations of NLD Defence as well as advising NLD CHOD on all crisis- and humanitarian operations. In 2014 MG ten Haaf was in charge for the NLD Defence contribution in securing and supporting the Nuclear Security Summit. He also headed the NLD Defence effort in the aftermath of the MH-17

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disaster. For this work he was awarded the Medal of Merit in Gold from the Dutch Minister of Defence.

From January 2016 until September 2017 he served as Netherlands Defence Attaché in the United States of America. As of Sept 2017 he has been appointed as Projectleader and as of December 5, 2018, as Commander NLD Special Operations Command with concurrent promotion to the rank of Major General.

Major General Ten Haaf is married and has three children. His hobbies are gliderflying, military history and hunting together with his dog Indy.