



## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **Colonel Ron E.P. Hagemeyer, Royal Netherlands Air Force Chief of Staff European Air Group.**

Ron Hagemeyer started his military career at Gilze-Rijen Air Base in 1978. After receiving his pilot wings, he flew 10 years on the BO-105 CB Bölkov helicopter, flying reconnaissance and liaison missions as a Line Pilot, Instructor Pilot and as a Flight Commander. Ron Hagemeyer was also closely involved in the introduction of the Night-Vision Goggles (NVG) system and Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) equipment for the Bölkov. He was also responsible for the conversion of the squadron to NVG and IFR standards.

In 1990, the then Captain Ron Hagemeyer was selected as an exchange pilot on the AH-64A Apache at Fort Rucker USA. He was appointed a Flight Commander at one of the Apache training flights and afterwards as an Instructor Pilot with the Apache Instructor Flight. Back in the Netherlands, he was involved in the selection and acquisition process for filling the requirement of the Netherlands Armed Forces for an armed helicopter. In this process he was specifically responsible for the operational aspects, carrying out a large number of test flights in all four types of helicopters that had been short-listed as possible candidates.

After graduating from the USAF Air War College at the United States Air Force University, he was appointed as Commander of 302 Squadron, the 1st AH-64 Apache Delta Squadron of the RNLAf Tactical Helicopter Group at Gilze-Rijen Air Base. During this assignment he was deployed in 2001 as the Commander of the Dutch Apache Detachment to Djibouti, in the context of the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE).

In January 2002 Ron Hagemeyer was promoted to the rank of Colonel and appointed as the Commander of the RNLAF Tactical Helicopter Group and Deputy Commander of the 11th NL Air Manoeuvre Brigade, where he was responsible for the development of the air component of the 11th Air Manoeuvre Brigade with a view to achieving operational readiness status.

In January 2005 Ron Hagemeyer was appointed as the Commanding Officer of Gilze-Rijen Air Base (home of the Apaches). During his three-year tour as Commanding Officer of AFB GZR, he was directly responsible for the implementation of the new and improved Military Maintenance and Operational Aviation Requirements. During his Command, Apaches of the RNLAF were deployed to Iraq as part of Stabilization Force in Iraq (SFIR) and to Afghanistan as part of International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF). During the second half of 2007, Col Hagemeyer was deployed to Afghanistan as the Commander of the Dutch Air Task Force based at Kandahar, commanding the Apache, Chinook and F-16 detachments.

On his return from Afghanistan, Ron Hagemeyer attended the Senior Course at the NATO Defence College in Rome. After graduating from the NATO Defence College, in 2008, Colonel Ron Hagemeyer was appointed as Branch Head, Air Operations and Division Head Combat Plans Division at the NATO Air Component Command HQ at Ramstein Germany. In addition to this, he also took on the job of Head of the NATO Reaction Force (NRF) Division, where he was responsible for the NRF preparation of the ACC HQ.

In May 2011, Col Ron Hagemeyer was posted back to The Netherlands and appointed as the Division Head of the Aviation and Ground Safety Division of the Royal Netherlands Air Force, based at the RNLAF Headquarters at Breda. As Division Head Aviation Safety, Colonel Hagemeyer was in charge of the development and implementation of a robust Safety Management System for the Royal Netherlands Air Force, according to the latest standards.

As of August 2013, Col Hagemeyer is posted as the Chief of Staff of the European Air Group, High Wycombe, UK.

Colonel Hagemeyer is married and has two sons. He is a qualified military helicopter pilot with over 4000 hours and holds the Higher Staff Certificate of the Netherlands Defence College. He is also the bearer of the RNLAF Officer's Long Service (30 years) Medal, the United Nations Peace-Keeping Operation Ethiopia/Eritrea, the UNMEE–Djibouti commemorative Medal, the '*Medaille Honorable Forces d'Armée de Djibouti*', RNLAF Operational Medal, NATO ISAF Medal and the Netherlands' ISAF commemorative Medal.

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