



# CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Affairs Office



## Biography

### Colonel (GS) Hugo De Wilde, BEL AF

#### Division Head A1



Colonel Aviator, General Staff, Hugo De Wilde joined the Royal Military Academy in 1973 and obtained a Master's Degree in Military and Social Sciences. After completing his academic studies in 1978, he entered the Artillery Branch of the Belgian Army and served with 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment (M109 howitzers, 155 mm with nuclear capability).

In 1981 he began basic pilot training on both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. Upon completion in 1982 he transferred to the Belgian Army Aviation Branch as a professional helicopter pilot. His first appointment was with 18<sup>th</sup> Army Aviation Squadron in Germany, where he was a helicopter maintenance officer and, subsequently, an operations officer. In 1987 he joined the War College and graduated from the senior officers' course.

In mid 1988 Colonel De Wilde was assigned to the Army Aviation School, Brasschaat, near Antwerp for six years. As a member of the instruction department he led the team that paved the way for the AGUSTA A109 helicopter into the Belgian Armed Forces. He attended Staff College in 1992/93, obtaining the General Staff qualification and returned to the Army Aviation School as Deputy Commander Instruction.

From 1996 to 1999 he commanded the 17<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Helicopter Battalion at Bierset; under his command the A109's first operational mission abroad was conducted in direct support of a multinational division in Bosnia. In 1999 Colonel De Wilde and his family moved to France, where he joined the multinational EUROCORPS as Chief of the Army Aviation Branch. During this assignment he completed a 6-month tour of duty in Kosovo as KFOR III Chief of Helicopter Operations.

At the end of 2001, he was promoted to his present rank. After returning to Belgium in early 2002 he was assigned as Commander of the Belgian Army Aviation Group at Bierset. He headed this 850-strong group through a challenging reform process towards a structure better geared to new Peace Support missions.

In early 2004, Colonel De Wilde was appointed Chief of the Harmonization Division under the Assistant Chief of Staff Evaluation. His task included harmonizing the different business plans within the Belgian Defence Staff. From May 2007 to August 2008, he served as Chief of the Well-Being Division, a hub for all matters related to well-being across the Belgian Armed Forces.

In mid-2008 the Belgian Army Aviation Group was integrated into the Belgian Air Force. In September 2008 Colonel De Wilde was appointed to his current post as Manpower and Personnel Division Head (A1) of NATO's Allied Air Component Command at Ramstein.

The colonel has accumulated 3,000 flying hours on Sia Marchetti SF260, Alouette II, SA330 Puma and Agusta A109. Colonel De Wilde and his wife Wivina have one son Axel.

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