



MGEN (rtd) Koen Gijsbers

General Manager

On 1 July 2012, Mr Koen Gijsbers took up the post of the first General Manager of the newly established NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency.

Prior to this, he worked in the Netherlands Ministry of Defence, where he was responsible to coordinate the major reorganization of the defence organization, in order to implement a 15% budget cut (1 Billion Euro). He reported to the Secretary General of the MoD and a committee that includes the Chief of Defence.

He moved back from the USA to the Netherlands from a NATO appointment to become responsible for IT and business management policy at the Ministry of Defence, at the same time Chief Information Officer (CIO). His main focus was the rationalization of all IT services (operational, personnel, logistic, financial) throughout the defence organization. He was given the responsibility for information security policy of the whole of national government as member of national CIO Board. He was member of the national cyber board.

In 2006, he was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (ACOS C4I) of NATO's Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Va, USA. Based on his operational experience, he was able to lead NATO's network centric innovation. He had the responsibility to mentor and oversee NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (COE) in Estonia and the Command and Control COE in the Netherlands.

In 2003, he took command of 11 Air Manoeuvre Brigade (Air Assault) consisting of infantry, supporting troops, and assault and transport helicopters. During this command, his units were deployed to Iraq and were part of the NATO Response Force. Furthermore, he prepared units for deployment to Afghanistan (ISAF), Congo and European Union Battle Group.

He took command of 11 Combat Engineer Battalion in 1997. After promotion to Colonel, he was deployed to the NATO mission in Kosovo in 1999, directly after KFOR moved into theatre, as commander of a regimental task force consisting of infantry, engineers and logistical units, delivering security and humanitarian aid to the suffering local population. Subsequently, he was appointed Chief of the Policy and Plans department of the Netherlands Training Command and Chief of the General Policy Department of the Commander in Chief Royal Netherlands Army.

Mr Gijsbers (1958) attended the Royal Military Academy in 1976. In 1980 he was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers. He initially commanded a combat engineer platoon and then a field engineer company. He was assigned as a project manager at the Netherlands Infrastructure Directorate, before going to the General Staff Officers Course. As Major and Lieutenant Colonel, he was assigned to the Army Staff at several positions in policy and plans departments and instructed strategy and joint operational warfare at the Netherlands Defence College.

MGEN (rtd) Gijsbers holds a Master's degree in Military Art and Science of the US Army Command and General Staff College (Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas).

In 2001, MGEN Gijsbers was knighted in the Order of Orange Nassau (with Swords), awarded by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix. During his Military Academy studies he was a good athlete at 400m and 800m running, attended the Olympics in Moscow (1980), and still holds a Dutch Record at 4*400m relay.

MGEN (rtd) Gijsbers is married to Rixt A. Meines.

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