



SAFETY FIRST AT NSS NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMITTOP IN THE HAGUE THE NETHERLANDS

HOW SAFE CAN YOU GO ?

WELCOME PRESIDENT OBAMA AND WORLDLEADERS

Welcome President Obama in Fortress The Hague! Don't worry politicians, Dutch Defense is right behind The Netherlands for the third edition of the NSS (Nuclear Security Summit). Besides the worldleaders two other 'armies' also visited The Netherlands, one being about 5000 delegates, another some 3000 journalists. The Dutch Government would monitor and guarantee the safety of all these people and for that purpose the Defense Forces were mobilised, prepared and armed to the teeth ! This all together resulted in far-reaching consequences for land and air traffic for over half a week.

WHAT IS NSS ABOUT ?

In a nutshell: Prevention of illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and consequential nuclear terrorism. It's not just the military nuclear material that has been spoken of, but it concerns also the waste of for instance hospitals and other peaceful subjects. Prohibiting the use of these materials cannot be a right decision, this would mean that for instance people suffering cancer could not be helped anymore. It mainly concerns the wise use of materials, processing it, and above all know where the materials are located. Unfortunately we live in a world where terrorist organisations would love to have nuclear materials for building dirty bombs. Bombs not as tool for protection as deterrent item (for instance Israel, USA, UK, but to actually use it to kill many people for their terror insights.

This has become a major and real threat nowadays. Looking at for instance North-Korea or Iran there are also other countries that are not so stable, and the wish need to talk about this became more and more evident. Possibly this will be a major item of the next NSS Top. Giving the urgent awareness to all the participating countries and worldleaders, and talk about it amongst each other is the vital intention of the summit. So summarized it concerns the reduction of hazardous nuclear material in the world, to secure the existing material even better and strengthening the international cooperation in these matters, of which - as Barack Obama stated - the Ukraine is a good example. They renounced their material.

BEHIND THE SUMMIT SCENES

Oddly enough the summit itself is not the biggest reason for all the commotion and paid attention to this summit, but the fact that all these worldleaders and people around them had to be secured a 100% and environment had to be monitored as best as ever possible. This nuclear 'safety in the world with highest priority' summit is the largest ever organized, and the organization was in the hands of The Netherlands. How did they do it ? To exclude most threats the air, roads, buildings but also the coastline had to be in control to avoid any possible disturbances and thus maintaining security during the NSS. Military personnel: about 3000. Making a small calculation about location, organisation, catering, techniques, ICT and transports of delegations and material the cost are about 24 million Euro.

The Hague is situated almost next to the former Naval Airbase 'Valkenburg' and in no-time after thorough preparations a complete operational airfield (Forward Operating Base) was born there in a few days for this summit. This with all facilities, fuel-depots, communications and even on several locations 'ack-ack' (NASAMS, Norwegian Advanced Surface to Air Missile System) around the improvised airfield as well as along the coastline.

NASAMS is a recent system based on the already existing AMRAAM missiles, ground-to-air system. This system was operated in close cooperation with AOCS in Nieuw-Milligen (Air Operating and Control Station) and several NATO AWACS planes. The same goes for the Patriot units around the environment. On the airbases Leeuwarden and Volkel some QRA teams were ready to intercept any aircraft not flying the route it should be. Over the complete Netherlands as in fact every 'normal' day, but around The Hague it was strictly forbidden, not even possible to fly. It could not be ruled out that the disappeared Malaysian airplane was hijacked and would be used for an attack on the day of the summit. But the

airspace was secured and 24/7 guarded by NATO AWACS planes, the Royal Dutch Airforce F-16 fighters, Apache helicopters and by all means yes, they were licensed to kill in emergency situations ! The coast was watched over by the Royal Dutch Navy, the 'Marechaussee' (mil. police, also 3000 persons) were concentrated everywhere , and the congress was watched over and completely secured by police and other services. The 'KLPD' (Police) was permanently present with seven helicopters, EC-135 and also two ASW-139, the latter a very sophisticated and equipped with ultra-modern helicopter avionics of which we were only to know by existence due to a former visit, but now not to be seen not even by distance. Vital is the communication between all elements, Airforce, Navy, Army, Police where the AOCS has a major role in this, because next to communication within all military aspects there is also civil aviation that has to continue, even if it is by temporarily re-directed routes.

As it would come to an escalated situation in which Police- and Defense helicopters should act both at the same scene there is direct air to air radiocontact. Several Marine vessels of various classes guarded the coastline and in particular shipping routes around Scheveningen and Noordwijk. This visit of these VIP's was also guarded by Defense in terms of safety of the King and Queen and also in close cooperation with the National Police, with help of the Apache combat helicopters , Chinook Medevac equipped transporthelicopters, Cougar helicopters, you name it, it was there. Dutch defense had 16 helicopters available for 'hems hot' any minute, not to mention the USAF there on the spot with their Blackhawk helicopters. Safety was priority # One !

IMPRESSIONS

A collection of images is shown to give a small impression of what was the largest safety operation of it's kind ever in the Netherlands, prepared in the last two years just for two days. The construction worked, everyone did his job, the summit was quite a success and all worldleaders and VIP's came to get home safe. In a few days the improvised Forward Operating Base of former Naval Airstation 'Valkenburg' next to The Hague will be no more than an abandoned collection of old buildings and old runways, some small companies and grass for the local model-airplane club, leaving all participants with their plans and agreements to make the world a little more nuclear-safe.

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