



Director Training Development Division

Brigadier General Thomas BRAUN

Brig Gen Thomas Braun is the Director Training Development Division, NATO Mission Iraq (NMI). Having received his commission in 1997 he became an excellent and highly skilled Air Force officer by trade. A convincing leader by example, who held several command positions as an infantry officer up to battalion level. A command highlight of his career so far was his leadership as battalion commander Tactical Air Wing 33 where he was in charge of operational force protection and base security operations at Buechel Air Base.

His staff career is dedicated to international military-politico affairs. After having served at the Office of the German Military Representative to the Military Committee of NATO & EU and up to highest national levels in the Ministry of Defence, he served as Deputy Branch Head for bilateral relations and security policy within the Directorate-General for Security and Defence Policy in the German Ministry of Defence, before having been selected as the Defence Policy Advisor to the President of the Federal Republic of Germany. Subsequently he was promoted to flag officer and took over the responsibilities as the Director Training Development Division within the NATO Mission in Iraq.

Brig Gen Braun's operational deployments include a tour as liaison officer for the NATO Commander of Operation AMBER FOX in North Macedonia and a seven month tour as UN Military Observer in South Sudan (UNMISS). He also deployed and travelled to numerous African nations for bilateral matters including Libya, Somalia, Chad, Nigeria, Tunisia and South Africa amongst other. He has successfully participated in the Leaders Programme for Advanced Security Studies (LPASS) at the George C. Marshall Center where he was commended for his excellent publications on Russia's military power projection capabilities and Counterinsurgency Operations. He also graduated NATO Defence College in 2021 dedicating his personal research to NATO-Russia relations.

Brigadier General Braun's profile is rounded off by his excellent language skills in English and French.

EDUCATION

- 1996 Officer Training, I./Air Force Academy, Fuerstenfeldbruck
- 2000 Educational Sciences Studies, University of the Federal Armed Forces, Hamburg
- 2001 Platoon leader course, Infantry School, Hammelburg
- 2009 6th Joint Command and General Staff Officer Course, Command and Staff College of the German Armed Forces Hamburg
- 2012 Leaders Program Advanced Security Studies, Georg C. Marshall Center, Garmisch-Partenkirchen
- 2014 Postgraduate studies (Political Science) Master of Arts, National Security Studies, US Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, USA
- 2020 137th Senior Course, NATO Defence College, Rome, ITALY

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 1996 – September 1997, Joined the Bundeswehr and started Officer training at I. / Air Force Academy, Fuerstenfeldbruck
2. October 1997 – December 2000, Educational Sciences Studies, University of the Federal Armed Forces, Hamburg
3. January 2001 – June 2001, Platoon leader course, Infantry School, Hammelburg and 1./Air Force Security Squadron WAHN, Cologne
4. July 2001 – September 2003, Platoon Leader, 2./Air Force Training Regiment 1, Budel, NETHERLANDS
5. October 2003 – December 2005, Press Officer, Air Force Office, Cologne
6. January 2006 – June 2006, S3 Operations Officer, Air Force Ground Combat Support Battalion, Wittmund
7. July 2006 – May 2008, Squadron Commander, 3./Air Force Ground Combat Support Regiment, Schortens
8. May 2008 – June 2009, Squadron Commander, 9th/ Non-Commissioned Officer School of the Air Force, Heide
9. July 2009 – September 2011, 6th Joint Command and General Staff Officer Course, Command and Staff College of the German Armed Forces, Hamburg
10. October 2011 – March 2012, Department of Security Policy and Strategy, Command and Staff College of the Armed Forces, Hamburg; participation in the Leaders Program Advanced Security Studies, George C. Marshall Center, Garmisch-Partenkirchen
11. March 2012 – October 2013, Desk Officer at the Office of the German Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee, Brussels, BELGIUM
12. November 2013 – May 2014, A3 (Planning, conception and coordination of air force-specific specialist training) Air Force Department, Command and Staff College of the German Armed Forces, Hamburg
13. May 2014 – June 2015, Postgraduate studies (Political Science) with M.A., National Security Studies, US Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, USA
14. July 2015 – October 2017, Country Director for Africa affairs (Bilateral Security Policy), Directorate-General for Security and Defence Policy, MoD, Berlin
15. October 2017 – July 2018, Staff Officer/ Military Assistant to the Director-General for Security and Defence Policy, MoD, Berlin
16. August 2018 – August 2020, Commander, Air Base Group, Tactical Air Force Wing 33, Cochem/Buechel
17. August 2020 – January 2021, 137th Senior Course, NATO Defence College, Rome, ITALY
18. February 2021 – May 2022, Deputy Head of Branch for Security Policy and Bilateral Relations, Directorate-General for Security and Defence Policy, MoD, Berlin
19. May 2022 – March 2025, Defence Policy Advisor to the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin
20. April 2025 – Present, Director Training Development Division, NATO Mission Iraq, Baghdad

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Besides several medals for operational deployments, Braun was also awarded two Honorary Cross of the Bundeswehr (Bronze and Gold), the US Air Force Commendation Medal, the distinguished Spanish Medal Isabel la Catolica (Encomienda) and the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (Commander).

(Current as of April 2025)