

points of interest

# DUTCH AIRCREW PROVIDES EXPERTISE TO ATAC STUDENTS

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By **Captain Rae Joseph**

*Colonel Alain Parent, Commander of 1 Wing watches as Captain Rene Poulin, 438 ETAH and Second Lieutenant Derek Shrumm (foreground) operate the Simulator. Credit: Captain Rae Joseph*

**T**he world of simulation can extrapolate any capability—in any scenario—onto the computer screen. Anything, that is, except the intricate details only an expert with experience and skill can provide.

That's why 1 Wing's 403 Helicopter Operational Training Squadron solicited the expertise of a Chinook pilot and a loadmaster from the Netherlands for Exercise Winged Warrior, which ran 22-31 October, 2007.

Captain Leo Stolk and Sergeant Major Rob de Graaf from 298 Squadron (Chinook) were the subject matter experts on the Chinook, which was one of the simulated air assets available to the 12 Advance Tactical Aviation Course (ATAC) students.

ATAC is designed to train future aviation mission commanders to plan and execute missions in a complex and dynamic battle space against an asymmetrical threat, with Winged Warrior as the validation exercise. Since the course's performance objectives are to plan and execute a mission, it only makes sense to give the students the best references to achieve their goals.

**“[We are here] to give the students a better understanding of the Chinook—its capabilities and limitations,” said the 12-year veteran Dutch pilot. “We do not tell [the students] what**

**they need to do. We are here for when they need advice in how to implement the Chinook into their mission.”**

The Dutch crew's time, knowledge and skill set has been utilized to the fullest.

“Each student was given a reading package on the Chinook, but even then key information such as loading, unloading and slinging times are not in the package,” said Capt Stolk.

Capt Stolk, who has served three tours in Afghanistan, had a chance to be a part of one of the missions—from planning to execution—as a Dutch Chinook pilot in the simulated Afghanistan training scenario.

“It was interesting. We have a Dutch saying, ‘It's interesting to look into someone else's kitchen,’” he said with a smile. “You see a different approach to the planning process.”

It is these differences, Capt Stolk said, that are important to learn as operations around the globe continue to be joint with other nations. He hoped that his and Sgt Maj de Graaf's advice, guidance and expertise will further benefit the students as they become aviation mission commanders.

“I really enjoyed it and will take what I learned working with 1 Wing to our crews. Truly a good experience,” Capt Stolk said. ■

**Captain Rae Joseph is the 1 Wing Public Affairs Officer working at the Headquarters in Kingston, Ontario.**



*Captain Leo Stolk from 298 Squadron, Netherlands (centre) stands by ready to offer advice on the Chinook capability as the Aviation Mission Commander (left) explains how the convoy escort mission will be executed. Credit: Captain Rae Joseph*