



Frank Thomas Best

**Brigadier General
German Air Force**

European Air Transport Command

Brigadier General Frank Thomas Best was born on 03 May 1964. He joined the Luftwaffe for basic military training in Roth/Nürnberg in 1983 and attended Officer Training in 1984 at the German Air Force Officer School in Fürstenfeldbruck.

In 1985, he attended Initial Helicopter Training and NATO/EURO Helicopter Training in Fort Rucker (AL, USA) before being awarded his wings in 1986. Afterwards, he completed the Conversion and Tactics Courses at Helicopter Transport Wing (HTG) 64 in Alhorn.

He was then assigned to Air Transport Wing 61 (LTG 61) at Landsberg am Lech, where he joined the Helicopter Squadron as a Bell UH-1D pilot. From 1989 to 1990, he returned to HTG 64 in Alhorn as an instructor pilot before being posted to Royal Air Force Shawbury, UK, as an Exchange Officer and Qualified Flight Instructor for three years.

Upon returning to Germany, he joined 2nd Squadron of Air Transport Wing 62 in Diepholz as an instructor and served as the Squadron's Executive Officer before becoming Officer Commanding, 2nd Squadron of Air Transport Wing 62.

From 1998 to 2000, Brigadier General Best attended the General Staff College in Hamburg. After graduating, he held positions in the German Air Transport Command in Münster as Branch Head of Operations and Concepts, the Air Staff in Bonn as Desk Officer for Air Transport, CSAR, SAR and ARR, and the Joint Staff as J2/J3 Desk Officer for Joint Operations.

In 2006, Brigadier General Best was posted to the European Air Group in High Wycombe, UK, as Senior National Representative and Area Director Air Operations Ground for four years.

In 2010, Brigadier General Best became the Commanding Officer of the newly established Helicopter Wing (HSG) 64 in Holzdorf/Laupheim until 2014. During this assignment, he also served as Commanding Officer of the German Expeditionary Air Wing in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, for six months.

From 2014 to 2018, Brigadier General Best joined the European Air Transport Command (EATC) in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, as Senior National Representative and Deputy Director of Operations.

In 2018, he returned to the Ministry of Defence in Bonn as Branch Head of Forces Policy.

From April 2020 to April 2021, Brigadier General Best held the position of Director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team in Pristina, Kosovo.

After his assignment in Kosovo, Brigadier General Best assumed the responsibilities of Director of Flying Operations and Deputy Commander of Flying Units in the German Air Force Forces Command in Bonn.

In September 2023, he assumed the position of Chief of Staff at the European Air Transport Command (EATC) in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

Brigadier General Best flew over 3,856 flying hours on various aircraft types, including the UH-1D, Gazelle and CH-53.

He is married and has two adult children.