



Belgian Air Component

F-16 Solo Display Team

Factsheet 2010

Belgian Air Component F-16 Solo Display Team
<http://www.f16demo.be>

The Demo Pilot:

The demo pilot of the Belgian Air Component F-16 Solo Display Team from 2009 till 2011 is Michel 'Mitch' Beulen of 349 (F) squadron based at Kleine Brogel AB.

Mitch was born on June 16th, 1975 in Oostende (Ostend) and lives together with Kim and his two sons Niels and Mathias, in Hasselt since 2003.

He acquired his first flying experience with the Belgian Air Cadets (BAC) in 1992. In October of 1996 he included the promotion pilots (Prom Pil) 96B. From January of 1997 Mitch received basic flight training in the 5th squadron at Beauvechain AB on Marchetti SF-260, the advanced flight training on Alpha-Jet in the 7th squadron and the initial operational training in the 11th squadron. On December 17th, 1998 he received his pilot wings.

In September of 1999 Mitch moves to Kleine Brogel AB for his operational conversion in the F-16 in the Operational Conversion Unit (OCU). Initially on F-16 OCU (block 15) and then F-16 MLU (Mid-Life Update). In September of 2000 he joins 349 (F) squadron. Mitch traversed the entire training cycle from Combat Ready to Force Leader in his squadron. He took part in various specialized courses such as the Tactical Leadership Program (TLP) in Florennes AB and the Operational Test & Evaluation Course (OT&E) in the National Test Pilot School (NTPS) in California, and exercises such as: ACMI - NOMAD - Maple Flag - Red Flag - Green Flag - NATO Air Meet (NAM) in Konya (Turkey) - Bold Avenger as Director of Operations (DOO) in Ørland (Norway) and Air Defense Meet in Landivisiau (France).

Further he participated in the F-16 M4 test program (Early Operational Assessment and Operational Test & Evaluation). Mitch also took part in Operation Joint Falcon in Amendola (Italy) and Operation Guardian Falcon (Afghanistan).

Mitch totalizes more then 2200 flight hours of which 1950 on the F-16.



The Team:

The support team is composed from people of 349 (F) squadron. The list contains the members of the ground crew:

Michel Beulen	(Demo Pilot)
Maxime Van hauter	(Team Officer)
Ken De Trogh	(Team Coach)
Sandro Serio	(Team Chief)
Erwin Jamar	(Team Chief)
David Segers	(Team Chief)
Wim Deschrijver	(Crew Chief)
James Ching	(Crew Chief)
Peter Vanden Wijngaert	(Crew Chief)
Frank Sneyers	(Crew Chief)
Eddy Vrijssen	(Crew Chief)
Tongchai Sri Udom	(Crew Chief)
Erwin Neyens	(Crew Chief)
Kristof Moens	(Smoke Chief)
Stefaan Abeels	(Smoke Chief)
Patrick Dirx	(Smoke Chief)
Jean-Pierre Meyens	(Smoke Chief)

Many more people from within the Belgian Air Component as from outside the military support the team in different ways.

You can read all about the teams adventures on <http://www.f16demo.be>.



The Jet:

The Lockheed Martin F-16 Fighting Falcon is the only fighter left within the Belgian Air Component. It was originally developed by General Dynamics for the United States Air Force and evolved to a multi-nation fighter program after Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark and Norway signed up for it in 1975. Designed as a lightweight fighter optimized for daytime dog fighting and ground attack, it evolved into a successful multi-role aircraft over the years.

You can read the more in-depth story about the F-16 on <http://www.f-16.net>.

Technical features of the F-16:

- **Length:** 14.8 m
- **Wingspan:** 9.8 m
- **Height:** 4.8 m
- **Empty weight:** 8,270 kg
- **Loaded weight:** 12,000 kg
- **Max takeoff weight:** 19,200 kg
- **Maximum speed:**
 - **At sea level:** Mach 1.2 (915 mph, 1,460 km/h)
 - **At altitude:** Mach 2+ (1,500 mph, 2,414 km/h)
- **Combat radius:** 340 NM (295 mi, 550 km) on a hi-lo-hi mission with six 1,000 lb (450 kg) bombs
- **Ferry range:** 2,440 NM (3,900 km)
- **Service ceiling:** 48,000 ft (15,239 m)
- **Powerplant:** 1× Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-220 afterburning turbofan
 - **Dry thrust:** 14,590 lb (64.9 kN)
 - **Thrust with afterburner:** 23,770 lb (105.7 kN)

FA-110

The aircraft chosen to be Mitch's companion throughout the season is F-16AM #FA-110. It recently received the so-called MLU M5 update making it the most modern of all operational F-16s within the Belgian Air Component. The aircraft received an impressive three-tone gray/black and blue colour scheme. The aircraft is called 'Vortex' to represent – together with the stunning paint scheme - the vortices that form during supersonic flight. The idea was – once again - realized by Johan Wolfs and Peter Verheyen together with the KB Paintshop.



The Show:

The show for the 2010 season is completely new. The show demonstrates the limits of the F-16 and of the pilot flying it. The figures the pilot flies with the F-16 are standard figures which every F-16 pilot within the Belgian Air Component masters. The difficulty concerning this show is to perform all those figures in a fluent composition as well at low altitudes of around 500 ft (150m).

There are 2 show types, for good and bad weather. The good weather routine lasts approximately 11.5 minutes and contains a total of 18 figures. The bad weather routine is about 2 minutes shorter and contains 1 figure less, accompanied by some adapted routines for low cloud cover. Both routines are described below.

Good weather routine

1. Take-off with climb.
2. A split-S.
3. Three aileron rolls with 270° out to 45° in.
4. A looping aiming to datum.
5. Level flight with derry on the axis.
6. A half Cuban eight.
7. A split-S with two rolls.
8. An inverted pass and roll.
9. A half clover.
10. Knife edge pass with 270° out back to 45°.
11. A slow speed pass with 25° AOA and climb.
12. A high G barrel roll.
13. A double four point roll with 45° out and acceleration.
14. A high speed pass.
15. A climb and spiralling decent.
16. A low approach with extended gear and climbing to datum with a double roll.
17. A half Cuban eight turning to datum.
18. Landing.

Time: 11'30''

Bad weather routine

1. Take-off.
2. A climb 45° out with 270° back.
3. Three aileron rolls with 270° out to 45° in.
4. A roll with 45° out to datum.
5. An inverted pass with a roll.
6. A horizontal eight with double roll to datum.
7. Knife edge pass with 270° out back.
8. A slow speed pass with 25° AOA and climb.
9. A high G barrel roll.
10. A double four point roll with 45° out and acceleration.
11. A high speed pass.
12. A 9G 360° fast turn.
13. A low approach with extended gear and climbing to datum with a double roll.
14. A half Cuban eight turning to datum.
15. A horizontal eight.
16. A high speed slice.
17. Landing.

Time: 9'30''

Press information:

For more information about the team, please contact us through the contact form on the website. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Mailing address:

F-16 Solo Display Team
10th Tactical Fighter Wing
Gen.Maj. Av. Ivan Du Monceau de Bergendal AFB
Vliegveldlaan
3990 Peer
Belgium