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Deadly embrace : the decision paths to Uruzgan and Helmand

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Curriculum Vitea

Mirjam Grandia Mantas (Arnhem, March 13, 1976) acquired her secondary education at Hervormd Lyceum Zuid in Amsterdam (1988-1994). After obtaining her bachelor's degree in Journalism at the Academy for Journalism in Utrecht (1994-1998), she joined the military as a so-called officer specialist (recruited for their specific field of expertise) after an officer training at the Royal Military Academy in Breda (1998-1999). Initially, she served at the first German Netherlands Corps in Münster (Germany) as a press and information officer but after a deployment to Bosnia (2000) decided to pursue a professional career in the military.

She moved into the field of civil military cooperation (CIMIC) whilst also specialising in psychological and information operations. In this feature she was deployed to Kabul (Afghanistan) as Chief CIMIC liaison officer in 2003/2004 and as a CIMIC planner to Kandahar (Afghanistan) and CIMIC augmentee to the American Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Tarin Kowt (Afghanistan) in 2006.

After a short posting again at the German Netherlands Corps, this time as a planner at the Intelligence branch, she attended staff college. Her further development as a 'officer – scholar' (between 2004-2009 she obtained both a bachelor and master degree in political science from Leiden University), materialised when she was granted by the Netherlands Army with four years to pursue a PhD. In these four years she has, besides her field work, written various conference papers, book chapters and (inter) national publications. Shortly before the end of her research, she was a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War Programme at the University of Oxford.

After the completion of the PhD project, major Grandia Mantas took up the position of CIMIC planner at NATO's Joint Forces Command in Naples (Italy). It is her distinct desire to further establish herself as an 'officer – scholar': combining practical operational experiences with academic insights, research, and publications.

