

# First Impression Report

from partnerships to  
ecosystems, combining our  
efforts for a more  
secure world



Future Force  
Conference  
2017



Speech | Closing remarks:

## Think big. Act small. Start somewhere



Working in ecosystems means interacting with our partners in an ever-closer way. And that refers to my second take-away. I want to further open our doors and our windows. Enable interaction. To make it more specific, my first step during the coming months will be to create points of contact, for you and other organizations who seek cooperation. Thereby 'bridging' our world to the civil world. I will discuss the way we set this up with all the breakout owners when we get together for the evaluation of this conference. And during that same evaluation meeting, I will also put forward a proposal for a pilot on a comprehensive planning conference, my third take-away. This pilot will focus on a specific theme or perhaps environment.

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Report 1 | friday

## Middendorp challenges participants: find concrete solutions



“So far the impact of the conference has exceeded expectations. We have gone through an experiment. We saw the ecosystem come to life.” This gave Chief of Defence General Tom Middendorp the confidence to challenge the Future Force participants on Day 2. “We are all leaders in our own areas. Used to translating very abstract goals into practical answers. Let’s find solutions. Let’s find actions we can do together to make it work. Identify 3 takeaways that can be translated into action.”

Middendorp was delighted to see people from different backgrounds interacting, exchanging business cards and making appointments for follow-up meetings. All for a common goal: a safe and secure environment. And we all have something to bring to the table. Whether you are a researcher, a hacker, a leader of a company or wear a military uniform. There is something you can bring to the table to help to achieve that goal.”

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## Ecosystems come to life at Future Force Conference



“Your efforts have made this conference work and brought this ecosystem to life.” At the end of the Future Force Conference, Chief of Defence General Tom Middendorp was enthusiastic about the results that had been achieved so far. “I’ve heard exciting new ideas and philosophies that have an impact in every domain of business. ‘Work more like platform companies’, for example. ‘Like android”

On Day 2 of the conference, participants were once again presented with new perspectives from independent, creative thinkers. For instance, William Roper, Director of the Strategic Capabilities Office (Department of Defense, USA), called upon friendly armed forces to follow the example of sports teams. “Sports teams don’t throw out the whole playbook, but simply change it so that the new playbook has all the advantages of the old one but with restored surprise.” Use existing means in new, creative ways. “Take for example the use of inexpensive, traditional projectiles for ballistic missile defence by combining them with our electromagnetic railway program. This instead of million dollar interceptors. Do not let people sell you high-tech technology as the solution until they explain why they can’t solve your problem creatively with the systems you have.”

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Report | closing remarks of day 1

## Hennis: 'Let's mobilise the force for good'

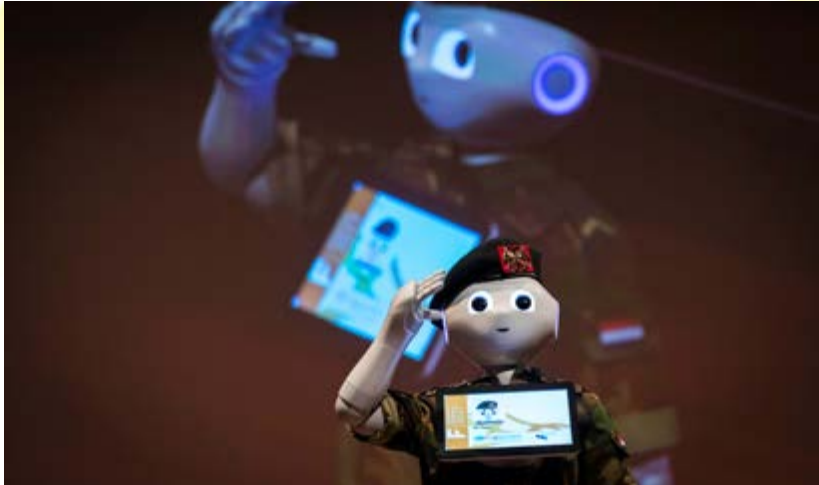


“On this tiny planet, we depend on each other like never before. Let’s start behaving accordingly. Let’s start turning the tide. Let’s mobilise the force for good.” At the end of Day 1, Minister of Defence Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert called upon the participants of the Future Force Conference to intensify cooperation. The first contours began to take shape during the breakout sessions on various security issues. What ideas and solution-finding approaches did the participants put forward? Professor Jonathan Holslag delivered an initial reflection. Hennis introduced her audience to the 67-year-old Muhammed Faris, who, 30 years ago, was the first and only Syrian to go into space.

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Report | Opening the Future Force Conference

## An ecosystem for security



“I’m Pepper, the intelligent social robot, and please don’t worry... I got through screening.” Chief of Defence General Tom Middendorp received an unexpected guest on stage today during the opening of the Future Force Conference in The Hague. “Why are you here?” Pepper: “Well, you are here to interact about ecosystems? Aren’t you? So I would like to be part of the discussion.” What followed was a digital impression of a ‘base of the future’, which looked as if it had come straight out of Star Wars. Here, seemingly unlikely groups work together to rebuild a country, with professionals ranging from military personnel, medical specialists and diplomats to teachers and agricultural experts.

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Report | Mayor of The Hague

## ‘Cities are indispensable partners within ecosystems’



“Any lasting contribution to peace, security and stability must take cities as its starting point.” These were the words of Mayor Jozias van Aartsen at the kick-start of the Future Force Conference 2017 at the Old Town Hall. The mayor of The Hague, host city for the event, reminded his guests of the importance of ‘the city’ – not to be underestimated and perhaps even the most important ecosystem in the world.

Because ecosystems are what the Future Force Conference 2017 is about. With 1.200 visitors from 50 countries and 95 speakers, it has become a major event in the international defence and security domain. During the 2-day event, pioneering leaders, thinkers and doers will be talking about the armed forces of the future and the question of how to deal with a wide range of security issues. The theme: ‘From partnerships to ecosystems: combining our efforts for a more secure world’.

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Speech | Turning the tide:

## The need to mobilise the force for good - minister Hennis-Plasschaert



“I regard this Future Force Conference as unique and important. This conference brings together a broad range of talented people and widely respected organisations.

This is important because we can thus forge new bonds, and strengthen existing ones at the same time. Only by combining...all of our efforts...for a more secure world...can we hope to change the world for the better. In fact, joining hands and connecting disciplines has — never before — been so important. Nowadays there is no such thing...as crossing a border...in order to isolate oneself from what happens in the rest of the world. And we simply cannot focus on our economy or political and social stability or humanitarian issues...while ignoring fundamental security issues. And vice versa. Things have simply become too interconnected in so many complex ways.”

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Speech | Connecting hope to action

## Netherlands Chief of Defence, General Tom Middendorp



As I speak, men and women in uniform all over the world help to protect societies against internal and external threats. So that citizens can live more freely and safely. They help to keep the peace in hostile environments. So that others can be free from suffering. They help to train the police. So that there is a credible police force, and criminals can be brought to justice. They show humanity in their daily work. So that they can lift people up. But it goes without saying that reality is more complex. Peace – of the solid, lasting kind – demands a painstaking, daily effort. Often conducted well below the radar of conventional diplomacy, or military operations. If we want a world where people don't have to flee, fight or turn to crime – we need others. If we want to prevent terrorism and organized crime from doing its devastating work – we need others. If we want children to have a safe place to call home and to have decent prospects in life – we need others. And that is exactly why, ladies and gentlemen, this time... the Future Force Conference is not a military conference in the traditional sense. It's an ecosystem approach to security. Meant to enable informal relationships. To connect our networks. And to inspire and empower each other.

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speech »



**Future Force Conf 17**  
@FFC\_17

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"If we want a world where people don't have to flee, fight or turn to crime - we need others." - General Middendorp opens #ffc17

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"Only by combining all of our efforts for a more secure world can we hope to change the world."  
" - mrs Hennis-Plasschaert #ffc17

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**DickSchoof**

@DickSchoof

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Interessante breakout game @FFC\_17 over cyberaanval op vitale infrastructuur. Relevant risico nationale veiligheid #ffc17



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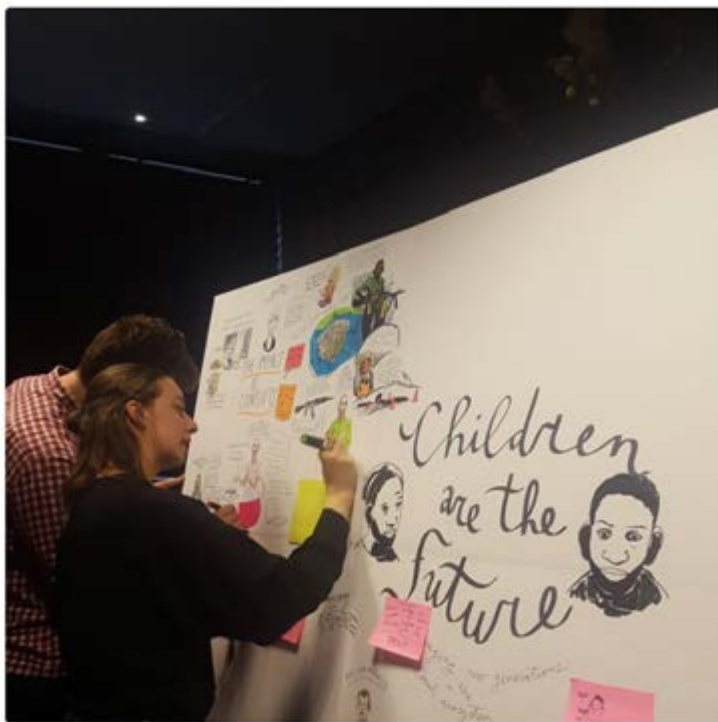
**Karlijn Jans**

@KCH\_Jans

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Creative capturing of results break out sessions at the Future Force Conference @FFC\_17 @WarChildHolland #ffc17

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**Reinier Bergema**

@reinierbergema

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"Walls don't work. Europe must actively shape their external security environment." -Jonathan Holslag @FFC\_17 #ffc17 @defensie @hcssnl

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**xhuljeta keko**

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It's critically important to talk about the future now#ffc17



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**Matt Luna**

@luna1matt

Volgen

Discussing climate-related risks to security at the Dutch Future Forces conference in The Hague [@FFC\\_17](#) [@MajGenMunir](#)

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## Photo | Impression



“Pepper, good to see you, what are you doing here?” “Well general, you’re here to interact, aren’t you? Now I like interaction, I want to be part of the discussion.”



Pepper and the CHOD opened IC3D Media’s VR experience, for a glimpse of the base of the future, where military personnel cooperate with other people and other organisations.

## Photo | Impression



Ana Saldarriaga, former CEO and president of AIESEC: "Young people can play and are playing a fundamental role in the global ecosystem."



Bringing a cyber attack scenario to life, by using state-of-the-art multimedial support from Kaspersky, helped participants to experience what it is like to be a key player in these kinds of crises.

## Photo | Impression



Professor Jonathan Holslag reflected on what happened on stage and picked out main conclusions from the various breakout sessions.



"To address today's security challenges, we need an approach that transcends national borders & various disciplines."



Photo | Impression



“Nothing of ‘the old war’ is here anymore. We’re facing terrorism, that is using information as a powerful weapon.” - Monica Maggioni



“From space you see the effect of the human plague, such as war, pollution and climate change.” - André Kuipers



## Photo | Impression



Children have the skills and the ability to shape their lives and cope with adversity, even in the face of armed conflict." In the breakout 'Children are the future', participants from various sectors worked towards a commitment for further exploration of collaborative action by a multitude of organisations.



"C U in the future!"




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More information can be found on [www.ffc2017.org](http://www.ffc2017.org).

Also, check out our Facebook page 'Future Force Conference 2017', where people can win tickets if they share their ecosystem ideas!

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