



Vice Admiral Rob Kramer

Commander of the royal Netherlands Navy

Panel B4

**European Naval Cooperation – how to shape
European Navies for tomorrow?**

Wednesday, 28th November 2018, 11:45 – 13:15h

Rob Kramer was born in 1962. He joined the Navy as a midshipman at age 19 and picked up his first commission in 1985 where he was trained as officer of the watch on HNLMS Tromp. This turns out to be the first of many operational assignments at sea. After his initial sea time he completed his academic education in 1988 with a course in business administration at the University of Groningen.

From there he combined assignments at sea with functions in policy and other supporting roles. Mostly as a trainer or in the personnel department. Kramer served on mine hunters, command frigates such as HNLMS De Ruyter, Witte de With and Tromp and participated in both national as well as international operations. Among others the NATO-operation Sharp Guard where an international trade-embargo was enforced in the waters surrounding former Yugoslavia.

On completion of these assignments in 1995 he was appointed as instructor and head of the navigation and seamanship department of the Navy's Operational School, overlooking all maritime training and education.

In 1998 he returned to sea as head of the operational department of the Multipurpose-frigate HNLMS van Galen after which he became the Dutch Liaisonofficer in Plymouth with Flag Officer Seatraining (FOST). After having held that post for three years he returns to the Netherlands in 2006 as the new Captain of the frigate HNLMS Evertsen.

Under his leadership and for the first time under the UN, the ship deploys in 2008 to the Horn of Africa to counter piracy and protect the logistical effort of the World Food Program. Many Dutch ships would follow suit in the following years. For a brief but intense period Kramer moves to The Hague where he completes his higher staff course and works as a policy advisor at the ministry of defense. In good order, and spirits, he then moves back to Den Helder to assume Command of all training efforts concerning maritime warfare. It is here that he introduces a new training and certification cycle, which is still in use today. On March 13 2014 he assumes command of the Netherlands Maritime Force and gets promoted to commodore.

On May 19, 2016 Commodore Kramer handed over command of the Netherlands Maritime Force and was promoted to Rear Admiral and he held the position of Deputy Commander of the Royal Netherlands Navy. Promoted to Vice Admiral he assumed the position of Commander Royal Netherlands Navy and Admiral Benelux on the 22th of September 2017. Vice Admiral Rob Kramer is married to Colette. They have twin sons, born in 1993. The family lives in Den Helder where they live an active (family) lifestyle in which practicing sports such as sailing, mountain biking, running and hiking plays an important part.