



Rear Admiral Peter Reesink

Director Principal, Directorate of Personnel,
Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands

Panel B2

Human Resources – backbone of armed forces

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

Rear-admiral Peter Reesink was born on November 21st 1964 in Rotterdam. At the age of 18 he joined the Royal Netherlands Navy as midshipmen at the Royal Naval College in Den Helder. He graduated in 1986 and was subsequently appointed as Bridge Watchkeeping Officer on the S-frigate HNLMS Van Kinsbergen. After almost two years at sea, he completed his Officer's training at the University of Delft where he specialized in maritime systems and technique.

In 1989 he returned to sea and served as Watchkeeping Officer on the support vessel HNLMS Mercur. This tour was brief while he was accepted for the Naval Flight Observer course at NAS Valkenburg. On completion he flew as navigator/communicator (NAVCOM) and tactical coordinator (TACCO) on board of the NL P3-C Orion. He spent much time at NAS Keflavik and NAS Sigonella and took part in the operation Sharp Guard. In 1995 he qualified as Principal Warfare Officer, specialising in Anti-Submarine Warfare. Thereafter he served one year as PWO on the S-frigate HNLMS Abraham Crijnsen. In 1996 he returned to the flying navy to serve as TACCO and Mission Commander on board of the NL P3-C Orion.

From 1997 until early 2000 rear-admiral Reesink (together with his family) was stationed at NAS Jacksonville (FL) as part of a US-NL exchange program. He served as (NATOPS) instructor at VP-30 and trained various NAVCOM and TACCO students/instructors to fly on the US P3-C Orion. Back in the Netherlands he returned to sea as Operations Officer and subsequently as Executive Officer on the S-frigate HNLMS Philips van Almonde. Thereafter followed by a period as Officer in the staff of the Commander Belgian and Netherlands Maritime Forces. He started in this operational Staff as SO AIR and completed with a short tour as SO Operations. During this timeframe he also spent time in Bahrein as Liaison Officer in the international Staff for Operation Enduring Freedom. From December 2002 onwards, he started his final tour in de flying navy and served as Planning and Operations Officer at NAS Valkenburg.

In 2004 rear-admiral Reesink attended the Joint Senior Staff College. In 2005 he became Appointer in the Navy Personnel Department, responsible for career management of Lieutenant Commanders. In 2006 he was promoted to Commander and became Head of Management Development, responsible for career management and planning for Commanders.

In June 2008 he returned to sea again to command the Air-Defense-Command Frigate HNLMS De Ruyter. This period included an Anti-Piracy operation off the coast of Somalia.

In July 2009 he transferred to command the M-Frigate HNLMS Van Speijk. With Van Speijk he took part in the NY400 celebrations and was successfully deployed to the Caribbean conducting counter drugs operations and serving as Guard Ship.

After a rewarding time at sea, he became a joint planner at the MOD in the Hague, August 2010. In the era of budget cuts, he was tasked, as part of a small team, to find a new balance between spending's, ambitions and means of the defense department.

On April 26th 2013 he was promoted to Captain and became Head of the Navy Personnel Department in Den Helder. In this period, he was one of the key players with regard to a major reorganization of the Navy, as part of a complete restructuring operation of the whole Defense Department. Furthermore, he was involved with future Personnel Policy and future Personnel Planning.

After a demanding period, he was privileged to take Command of the Joint Support Ship HNLMS Karel Doorman on September 30th, 2015. After a very short tour at sea, he was promoted to Rear-admiral on March 7th 2016 and was appointed Deputy Director of Operational Readiness at the MOD in the Hague.

As of April 1st 2017, he was promoted to rear-admiral and became Director General Personnel at the MOD in the Hague.

Rear-admiral Reesink is married to Marion Boon. They live in Santpoort (near Haarlem) and have two children, Pepijn (1993) and Merlijn (1995).