



Division Admiral Wim Robberecht
Commander of the Belgian Navy

Panel B4

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

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

In 1980, after 3 years in the Royal Cadet School, he joins the Royal Military Academy and graduates in nautical and military sciences.

In 1985 he starts his professional career on board different mine-counter-measure vessels. In 1987 he assumes his first command of the inshore minesweeper “M484 Dinant”.

In 1988, he starts at the Operational School in Den Helder, Netherlands, the course “Principal Warfare Officer with additional tickets as Navigation & Action Information Officer and Helicopter Direction Officer”. After this year of specialization, he serves on board the frigates “F910 Wielingen” and “F913 Westhinder”.

In 1990, he is appointed Flag Lieutenant to the Chief of Naval Staff. In 1993, he returns on board frigate “F912 Wandelaar” as Head of the Operational Department with participation in the embargo operation in front of former Yugoslavia.

In 1996, on completion of his pre-commander course, he is given his second command, the minehunters “M915 Aster” and “M923 Narcis”. As commanding officer, he sails as part of the permanent NATO squadron of mine-counter-measures vessels “STANAVFORCHAN”.

Following a course at the NATO School at Oberammergau, Germany, he is appointed Branch Chief of the NATO-desk at the Naval Staff within the Direction Plans and Programs. In 1998, as Commander, he serves as a staff officer in the Personnel Policy Branch of the Joint Staff within the Personnel Division.

He takes part in the studies concerning the personnel structures of the Armed Forces in view of the restructuring programs of 1994 and 2000.

On completion of the “Maritime Warfare Course” at Portsmouth, United Kingdom, he is appointed second in command of the frigate “F911 Westdiep”, subsequently “F910 Wielingen” with participation in the counter-drug-operations in the Caribbean Sea.

In 2002, he graduates at the Royal Defense College – Brussels and becomes Director of Naval Education, also responsible for the Naval Barracks at Bruges, during this posting he is promoted Commander SG.

In September 2004, he is appointed to the personal staff of the Director General Human Resources of the Joint Staff. During this appointment he also follows a ‘Master Class in Human Resources Management’ at the Vlerick Management University - Ghent.

On September 5th 2005, he is called to serve as Deputy Chief of Cabinet to the Chief of Defense.

In March 2007, he is called to be the first commanding officer of the frigate “F930 LEOPOLD I”, Belgium acquired in the framework of the reinvestment-programs. In the two years as commanding officer, he brings the ship for the first time up to its operational level and participates in the operation “UNIFIL MarOps” in front of Lebanon.

In 2009 he is briefly appointed to the naval staff Brussels as deputy-director and thereafter within the personal staff of the Director General Human Resources of the Joint Staff. In this post he follows the High Studies Security and Defense at the Royal Defense College – Brussels and in 2010 the “Cycle supérieur des Ressources humaines” at the Centre de Formation au Management du Ministère de la Défense in Paris.

In March 2011, he is Director Maritime Operations within the Belgian Naval component and also Deputy Director operations in the bi-national Staff of Admiral BENELUX in Den Helder, Netherlands.

In 2012 he had the responsibility of the Operations Division in the Defense HQ in Brussels, responsible for the ongoing real world operations of all Belgian Military personnel. In 2014, he is appointed Chief of Cabinet of the Chief of Defense and promoted Rear Admiral (upper half) in June 2016. As from 20th Sep 2016, he is appointed Commander of the Maritime Component.

Born in Kortrijk in 1962, married to Ann Dubois and father of three, he is living in the country-region of Aalst. He has been awarded the following honorary distinctions: Sword of His Majesty the King, Commander in the Order of the Crown, Officer in the Order of Leopold, Military Cross First Class, National Award for Operations abroad, the NATO and the WEU-medal for the participation in the operation ‘Sharp Guard’ and the UN-Service-medal for participation in the operation ‘UNIFIL MarOps’.